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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 140

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3rd price rollback in July

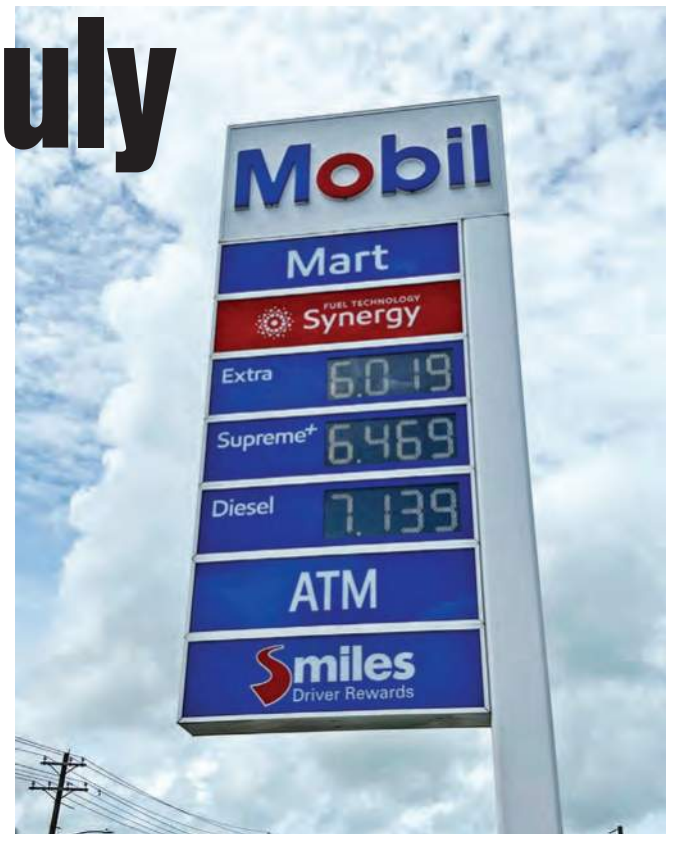
By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Just two weeks into the month, the CNMI has already seen three consecutive gas price rollbacks, with yesterday's price adjustment seeing gas prices reduced by another 15 cents.

Mobil Oil Marianas led the CNMI's third cut in gas prices early yesterday morning, with Shell Marianas almost immediately following suit, reducing its prices in the afternoon.

This means the per-gallon price of regular fuel across Saipan has been reduced to $6.01 from $6.16. Supreme fuel is now $6.46 per gallon

See 3RD on Page 4



A Mobil Oil Marianas gas price signboard displays the new gas prices.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

King-Hinds not running for delegate or AG

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

King-Hinds

Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds confirmed Wednesday night that she is not running for any positions in the Nov. 8 general elections. This ended talks that she may run either as the CNMI's delegate to the U.S. of Representatives or as the CNMI's attorney general.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry, King-Hinds

See KING-HINDS on Page 4

COVID-19 UPDATE

5 hospitalized; 238 new cases

As of July 13, 2022, there are five individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19, according to a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. news release late Wednesday.

The same news release stated that there were zero new hospitalizations due to COVID-19 in the previous week from July 3 to 9, 2022. It is presumed then

See COVID-19 on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

IPI, CCC settlement by July 18

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sister companies Best Sunshine International Ltd. and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and the Commonwealth Casino Commis-

See IPI on Page 4

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION MONTH

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, special assistant for Public Transportation Alfreda Camacho Maratita, the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, Cabinet officials, local dignitaries, and local partners pose for a commemorative photo yesterday in front of the Office of the Governor soon after Torres proclaimed the month of July as CNMI Public Transportation Month.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INSIDE

BUSINESS
U.S. inflation surged to a new four-decade high in June because of rising prices for gas, food and rent.

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ASIA
Sri Lankans woke up to confusion on Thursday, still waiting for their embattled president to resign.

PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE
A judge rejected an effort by Amber Heard to set aside the $10 million judgment awarded against her.

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Local

CUC ADVISORIES

Water service interruption today

The water service interruption for As Terlaje, South Garapan, portions of Gualo Rai, Chalan Laulau Middle Road and Beach Road has been re-scheduled for today, July 15, 2022, from 8:30am to 12pm, affecting the areas of As Terlaje, South Garapan (from the Horiguchi Building to the new Bank of Saipan), portions of Gualo Rai on Middle Road, Chalan Laulau Middle Road, and Beach Road.

The purpose of the re-scheduled water service interruption is to allow water operations personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to repair a 2-inch service lateral leak located by the entrance of Lila Place on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in Chalan Kiya. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after the repairs. ***(PR)***

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Emergency water service interruption extended

The emergency water service interruption for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the areas of Upper and South San Vicente, Upper Dandan Homestead, Naftan Road and Obyan areas yesterday, July 14, 2022, has been extended to today, July 15, 2022, at 12am.

The emergency water service interruption is due to a 6-inch mainline leak located on Isa Drive across the San Vicente Elementary School. Due to the heavy rainfall, the emergency service interruption has been extended. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after the repairs are completed. ***(PR)***

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SCA hits on idea of 'virtual animal shelter' in lieu of physical one

LEIGH GASES
Saipan Cares for Animals shelter manager Aileen Garcia is seen greeting the dogs that have been relocated temporarily to the new Mayor's Animal Shelter in As Perdido.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

After the many roadblocks and hindrances that Saipan Cares for Animals had gone through in the past year with finding and running a permanent animal shelter, SCA director Beth Pliscou has come up with what she calls a "virtual animal shelter."

This way, instead of SCA sheltering and taking in stray dogs and cats, it will be the community that will "step in and do the sheltering part," while SCA will focus on offering free vaccines, the anti-worm medication Bravecto, tick and worm medication, and spay and neuter surgery for its rescues.

Basically, "everything we gave to our shelter dogs before adopting out we will give free to the animals that are being sheltered by our community," said Pliscou.

Rather than seeing this as a compromise, Pliscou believes "this to be a much better solution for all on Saipan to pull together to fix our overpopulation and homeless [animal] problem."

What led to this direction is because of the problems SCA faced such as "zoning, then bird mitigation. We paid rent—$7,500…for a year [on a property] that we were never able to clear or even walk on," said Pliscou.

Moreover, "running a physical shelter, like we had in As Gonno, is extremely expensive. A money pit. We have our clinic now in Gualo Rai and it is doing very well. Because we don't have to care for the shelter animals morning and afternoon, we can be open [for] long hours to better serve the community."

Pliscou told *Saipan Tribune* that opening the clinic for longer hours benefits the community and the staff as it does not get as crowded unlike if it were to be open for limited hours only. "This is all much more pleasant for the staff," said Pliscou.

However, one member of the community who declined to be named expressed concerns and disappointment about not being able to freely give up or surrender the many stray cats or dogs roaming around the island.

"Some people don't have space in their homes to care for animals or some landlords don't allow pets, so the strays might continue to be neglected if there's no home for them," he said.

Pliscou said that unfortunately there's a limited number of people who are designated fosters or adoption homes for cats and dogs, but hopes this program will create more homes to help animals when needed.

The SCA clinic is open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 6pm. Sundays are for emergencies only. Contact the clinic at (670) 488-2751 for the latest information on their animal medication and for emergencies at (670) 285-5448.

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Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702 • Website: www.nmijudiciary.gov

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

FAMILY COURT SERVICES SPECIALIST
On the island of SAIPAN
Announcement # JVA22-027

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court and direct supervision of the Family Court Manager or his/her designee. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Assist Pro Se clients when they come to the Family Court Division seeking assistance in filing their case;
- Assist in the development and enhancement of Family Court programs;
- Maintain and promote positive workflow with all agencies involved in the processing and distribution of Family Court cases; Participate in court and special hearings for Family Court cases;
- Assist the courtroom clerks with docketing and scheduling of hearings for Family Court cases;
- Assist in the distribution of orders, pleadings and other documents in Family Court cases;
- Coordinate and schedule home assessments as well as process referral orders for those court clients referred to social mental health services;
- Conduct interviews of court clients and their families; analyze the information, identify possible problem areas, make recommendations concerning the case, and make referrals to other social service agencies;
- Input case information into the JustWare Case Management System and the Lexis Nexis E-filing system;
- Attend meetings as a representative of the Family Court Division;
- Assist in planning and coordination of Family Court trainings/ conferences;
- Maintain and monitor the Family Court Division's goals and objectives which will include the preparation of quarterly reports, compilation of case statistics and processing of purchase requisitions;
- Adhere to and comply with all promulgated policies, standards and codes of ethical conduct and perform other related duties as assigned; and
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The Family Court Services Specialist should have a High School Diploma or equivalent from an accredited college with an Associate of Arts (AA) degree in social work, criminal justice, or related service, plus one (1) year of experience in clerical, data collection, or similar field.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.)

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials. [1]

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position serves under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court and direct supervision of the Family Court Manager or his/her designee. The salary range will be $23,000 - $25,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS PERSONS Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Ilimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

NMI Judiciary
Human Resources
Guma' Hustisia/Ilimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818
Cell. (670) 783-8592
Fax. (670) 236-9702
hr.judiciary@NMIjudiciary.com

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen with a printable copy of the application and may be downloaded at http://www.nmijudiciary.gov .

The Judiciary reserves the right to rescind or cancel this JVA at any time without notice.

[1] The following organizations evaluate foreign educational credentials for employment and other purposes. All operate on a fee based on the extent of the education to be evaluated; applicants shall bear the cost of evaluation.
(a) Credentials Evaluation Service P.O. Box 24679 Los Angeles, CA 90024
(b) Education Equivalency Evaluation World Education Services P.O. Box 745 Old Chelsea Station New York, NY 10011
(c) Education Credential Evaluators, Inc. P.O. Box 17499 Milwaukee, WI 53217
(d) International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 914 Pickett Lane Newark, DE 19711
(e) Foundation for International Services, Inc. P.O. Box 230278 Portland, OR 97223.
While the Judiciary offer these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation of foreign education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist.

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The CNMI Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network, in collaboration with the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers (GCEA), and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce (SCC), invites all CNMI small business owners to take this anonymous survey. The results will assist us in identifying how we can better support you! Printed surveys will be available at the Rota, Tinian, and Saipan Mayors' offices. Complete and return your survey by noon on July 30.
*Must be a resident of the CNMI and own or manage a business.
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SAIPAN CHAMBER

Cultural talk show features ex-governor

The Chamorro Cultural Talk Show on Marianas Agupa' Talk Show om Magic 100.3FM will feature former CNMI governor Juan N. Babauta on July 16, 2022, at 10am. His topic will be *Unu na påtti gi istorian I San Kattan na Islas Marianas sigun gi lepblu siha ni tinigi'* (a piece of history based on the Babauta's books).

The presentation will be in Chamorro followed by a Q&A call-in, chat, from the public and via social media.

The public is also encouraged to participate in a survey after the talk show to help the Inetnun Kutturan Natibun Marianas/Kkoor Aramasal Marianas improve the show and identify future shows and cultural experts. Details about the survey will be provided during the talk show and posted on the Marianas Agupa' Talk Show Facebook https://www.facebook.com/Marianas-Agupa-Show-278884342457682 or https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5heKROsqcSVHg5ztadbDHA.

The Surveymonkey link for the July 16 talk show is: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VXJLWPQ or visit https://natibunmarianas.org/ for the link to the survey.

The program is hosted by the Inetnun Kutturan Natibun Marianas/Kkoor Aramasal Marianas (IKNM/KAM), a non-profit organization in the CNMI. Association president Isidoro T. Cabrera said the radio program is a community project that aims to celebrate and recognize the CNMI's cultural experts and encourage public interactions in humanities-related topics, including culture, tradition, history, language, traditional healing practices, local names of places in the CNMI, music, among others.

Listen live on Marianas Agupa' Show on KWAW Magic 100.3 FM and streaming on the Internet via Tunein Radio, YouTube and Facebook. ***(PR)***

COVID-19

From Page 1

that all new five cases are from within this week.

The same news release states that, from July 3 to 9, 2022, 238 additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 12,193 cases since March 28, 2020. Some duplicates have been removed. Of the cases recently identified: 27 were identified on July 3; 19 on July 4; 65 on July 5; 45 on July 6; 43 on July 7, 2022 (three on Tinian); 23 on July 8, 2022 (one on Tinian); and 16 on July 9 (on on Tinian).

Of the total cases that have been identified in the CNMI, there have been 11,967 recoveries; 191 active cases; and 35 COVID-19-related deaths.

The next CHCC report will be issued around July 18, 2022.

With the uptick in community cases, the CNMI has moved into COVID-19 Community Level Medium.

In Guam, the Joint Information Center was notified that the U.S. territory's 374th COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam on July 13, 2022. The patient was a 54-year-old female, fully vaccinated with one booster, who tested positive on July 13.

"Our hearts go out to her friends and family during this difficult time. We wish them healing and peace," said acting Guam governor Josh Tenorio. "To those who are sick with COVID-19, especially our vulnerable population, we urge you to take advantage of the treatments available to help you get better faster. Talk to your healthcare provider or call our COVID Hotline at 311, option 1."

Guam's Department of Public Health and Social Services also reported 96 new cases of COVID-19 from 2,057 specimens collected July 13, 2022. Ten of the new cases were reported through the Department of Defense.

To date, there have been a total of 53,459 officially reported cases in Guam, 374 deaths, 1,119 cases in active isolation, and 51,966 not in active isolation.

While the CNMI remains at COVID-19 Community Level Medium, residents are given the following guidelines:

■ Wear a mask based on your personal preference, informed by your personal level of risk

■ If you are immunocompromised or have a high risk for severe disease:

■ Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions (e.g., testing)

■ Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or knowing how to access testing)

■ Talk to your health care provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and monoclonal antibodies

■ If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease:

■ Consider self-testing to detect infection before contact

■ Consider wearing a mask when indoors with them

■ Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters

■ Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces whenever possible

■ Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19.

■ Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should stay home and isolate when they are sick (except to get medical care), even if they do not have symptoms; rest; stay hydrated; can take over-the-counter medicines, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen, to relieve symptoms; and live COVID-19 safe.

■ Residents of the CNMI who test positive for COVID-19 may be eligible for treatment by reporting their positive test result online at www.staysafecnmi.com/self-reporting within 5 days of the test result date. Residents requesting COVID-19 treatment should fill out the medical questionnaire in the form to get assessed as soon as possible. Reporting a positive test result online also allows residents to obtain a certificate of quarantine completion, which employers/individuals may use as documentation of a positive test result.

■ Individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should stay home (except to get medical care or get tested for COVID-19) and live COVID-19 safe. Other options include seeing their health care provider or calling the CHCC Tele-Triage hotline at (670) 233-2067. For a guidebook on how to live COVID-19 safe, visit www.staysafecnmi.com/live-covidsafe.

CHCC continues to encourage the community to get vaccinated if they have not done so, or get their booster shot if they are eligible to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, or death. People considered high risk (e.g., history of diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, or cancer, or over the age of 65), immunocompromised persons, or unvaccinated individuals are at risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Unvaccinated individuals spread the virus at a higher rate than vaccinated individuals, thereby increasing the spread and risk of serious illness toward other unvaccinated individuals.

Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccination, which includes additional doses for individuals who are immunocompromised or booster doses for those who are eligible. Register for COVID-19 vaccines at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, or call (670) 236-8745.

COVID-19 vaccines are now available for individuals aged 6 months – 4 years. Individuals aged 18 or older are eligible to avail of a booster shot; 5- to 17-year-olds can avail of a Pfizer-BioNTech booster shot. Individuals aged 50 or older or certain individuals who are immunocompromised can avail of a 2nd booster shot.

Data show that vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 infection is waning after the primary series, but protection remains high against severe disease and hospitalization.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

3RD

From Page 1

from $6.61, while diesel remains at $7.13 per gallon.

A local motorist hopes that this trend will just continue. "I don't want to jump the gun but I really hope this kind of trend continues because, although 15 cents may seem small, it makes a huge difference to those who are strapped for cash," she said.

Another motorist, a 42-year-old male, said the string of price rollbacks could not have come at a better time.

"Most of those who got their stimulus have probably already exhausted it by now. Others are still waiting, there is a delay in processing refunds, utility costs are at an all-time high, and we are seeing another spike in COVID cases. This relief is welcome and couldn't have come at a better time as the people of the CNMI continue to struggle with everything else going on," he said.

Starting last July 5, the CNMI saw a series of fuel price rollbacks, with prices dropping from $6.56 per gallon of regular fuel at the beginning of the month, to now at $6.01.

The first rollback was seen on July 4, with local oil companies reducing prices by 15 cents from $6.56 to $6.41. Then, just 24-hours later, in the early hours of July 7, the CNMI saw the largest rollback by far when oil companies dropped their prices by 25 cents from $6.41 to $6.16.

However, prior to the consecutive reductions in fuel prices, the CNMI saw a string of increases. The latest increase in fuel prices happened in the first few weeks of June with local oil companies across Saipan raising prices by 15 cents, followed by a few increases throughout the month.

Prior to the string of increases seen in June, a steady increase in fuel prices was also seen throughout the month of May with the last increase of 15 cents seen on May 20.

Oil companies have been raising their prices by 15 cents since April.

The steepest increase the CNMI saw in the past few months was back in April 20, when local oil companies increased their prices by 20 cents, bringing regular fuel prices up to $5.96 for a gallon.

KING-HINDS

From Page 1

said that running for office at this time is not the best use of her skills for the community.

"I have goals that can best be achieved by doing exactly what I'm doing," said King-Hinds, who is a lawyer.

Last October, the CPA chair stated that although she is not sure at this point whether to run as a CNMI delegate to the U.S. Congress, she is not closing her doors to that option.

With King-Hinds' final decision not to seek elected office, this leaves the strong likelihood that incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) will be running his eighth term unopposed again.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan has yet to announce whether he is seeking re-election or not. No one has expressed an interest yet in running for AG.

King-Hinds said she can finally see for the first time a real possibility of fixing some of the much-needed repairs at the CNMI's ports.

She said she is also ecstatic about the opportunity to help Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan and the Tinian leadership pursue a green initiative for the island to reduce its carbon footprint and be less reliant on fossil fuel.

King-Hinds said these are plans that will have a direct positive impact on the lives of the people and that at the end of the day, that's always the goal.

"I'm not interested in titles or positions. I'm interested in results and I think these are goals we can accomplish together," she added.

The Commonwealth Election Commission has started accepting the submission of nominating petitions and candidacy documents since Monday. Aug. 10 is the last day of such submission.

IPI

From Page 1

sion appeared before the U.S. District Court for the NMI to report that their long-awaited settlement agreement is expected to be finalized and executed by July 18.

On Tuesday, IPI lawyers Kevin Abikoff, Samuel Salyer, and Joey San Nicolas; CCC lawyer Alison Nelson, IPI representative Tao Xing, and CCC representative Ian Morrell came before Chief Judge Ramona Manglona for a status conference regarding the parties' progress in negotiating a final settlement agreement.

The parties reported that their negotiations are well-advanced and that they expect to finalize and execute a settlement agreement by July 18. Manglona ordered the parties to notify the court once that happens.

Upon receipt of the notice, Manglona said the court will extend the stay on the revocation of IPI's license to provide the parties with time to obtain necessary approvals of the settlement agreement. In such event, Manglona directed the parties to file a status report no later than Aug. 26, regarding approval of the settlement agreement.

However, should the parties fail to finalize and execute a settlement agreement by July 18, Manglona ordered the defendants to file an opposition to IPI and BSI's motion for preliminary injunction by July 22.

IPI, for its part, must file any reply by July 29.

In addition, Manglona said in the event a settlement agreement does not pull through by July 18, a hearing on the plaintiff's motion is set for Thursday, Aug. 18, at 8:30am.

Also, during the hearing Tuesday, IPI's financier, IH Group representative Kyu Nam Kim, was present in court and introduced by Abikoff.

She confirmed that a sufficient investment is underway to assure IPI's ability to make the financial commitment required by the settlement agreement.

She did not specify the amount IPI is expecting to receive.

However, in a previous court document, IPI informed the court that they were expecting a $150 million investment from IH Group.

Saipan Tribune learned from a credible source that IPI anticipates to receive the first $10 million of the investment by the end of June.

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STOCK # MU007675, FWD, 4-Cyl, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 5,010, Color: BLACK

$24,995
2020 NISSAN ROUGE SPORT S
STOCK # LW270290, FWD, 4 CYL, Auto
Est. Mileage: 17,421, Color: BLACK

$25,995
2019 HONDA CIVIC LX
STOCK # KE040804, FWD, 4 CYL, MT 6 Speed
Est. Mileage: 17,528, Color: SILVER

$25,995
2021 KIA SELTOS LX
STOCK # M7130276, FWD, 4 CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 24,988, Color: GRAY

$27,995
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Est. Mileage: 35,637, Color: WHITE

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STOCK # KU228086, FWD, 4CYL, AUTO,
Est. Mileage: 16468, Color: RALLY RED

$28,995
2017 HONDA ACCORD SPORT
STOCK #HA192138, FWD, 4CYL, AUTO
Mileage: 24,600, Color: GRAY

$31,995
2022 HONDA CIVIC SPORT
STOCK #NH507870, FWD 4 CYL - 2.0 L
Est. Mileage: 3,536, Color: BLUE

$34,995
2016 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
LIMITED BLACK EDITION
STOCK # GS134358, FWD, 3.4 L 6CYL, Auto
Est. Mileage: 16,480, Color: BLACK

$39,995
2019 NISSAN FRONTIER CREW CAB PRO4X
STOCK #KN883078, 4WD, V6, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 10,376, Color: GRAY

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2018 FORD TRANSIT 350 MR
STOCK # JKA83069, XL, RWD, V6, Flex Fuel
Est. Mileage: 22,379, Color: WHITE

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2018 FORD TRANSIT - LOW ROOF
STOCK # JKA66847
Est. Mileage: 32,259, Color: WHITE

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 022

Opening Date: July 12, 2022
Closing Date: July 25, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Fiscal Assistant/Dispatch Operator**
DEPARTMENT:	**COA/Customer Service/Call Center**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Four (4)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Monitors radio communications in order to dispatch crews for troubleshooting and for related service calls.
- Receives incoming calls reporting complaints or issues related to water, sewer or power utilities; provides general customer service; and routes service calls to appropriate resource.
- Organizes and maintains file systems and pertinent records.
- Performs data entry; maintains and updates logs and dispatch related documentation.
- Prepares and maintains requisitions.
- Follows up with customers to provide basic information, status updates, and to verify customer's experience and any remaining service needs.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and up to 1 year of customer service experience.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic recordkeeping principles; Radio communications equipment procedures; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Providing customer service; Monitoring and utilizing radio communications and equipment; receiving and routing service or problem calls; entering, updating and maintaining data; organizing and maintaining filing systems and records; preparing and updating logs, records and related documentation; performing follow up calls to ensure adequate service provision; utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

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Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 071

Opening Date: July 12, 2022
Closing Date: July 25, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Fiscal Technician, Senior**
DEPARTMENT:	**COA/Billing and Collections**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$24,096.00 - $29,393.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Two (2)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:
- May provide lead direction and/or supervise staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Receives, reviews and verifies vendor invoices and statements; service reports; time sheets; payroll information; and/or other payable documentation; ensures completeness and accuracy of calculations and information.
- Determines general ledger account information or expense allocation information; processes accounts payable or payroll transactions; routes check payment or wire transfer information for approval; posts accounts upon approval.
- Researches and reviews account, billing or system information; prepares reconciliations of financial data; updates and maintains account or employee data; calculates and prepares financial adjustments or account charge information.
- Assists internal and external customers with inquiries or account information; receives complaints; researches issues; provides information and explains processes and procedures; recommends resolutions to issues.
- Retrieves, files and maintains records, documents and tracking spreadsheets; processes purchase orders; prepares reports, work orders and/or audit confirmations; compiles documents and drafts correspondence.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Associate's Degree in Accounting or directly related field and 3 years of fiscal support experience.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Research methods; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Receiving, reviewing, posting and reconciling fiscal data or account information; Verifying fiscal data and updating account information; Responding to inquiries, researching information and resolving issues; Performing mathematical calculations and making corrections and adjustments; Researching and preparing account adjustments and related documentation; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, correspondence, reports and records; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Researching account information and providing information regarding billing disputes; Organizing and maintaining records management systems; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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3 CNMI reps hone skills on historic preservation

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

With the goal of building local capacity to preserve the CNMI's indigenous history, three CNMI representatives have been selected to attend a historic preservation convention in Hawaii and they are now past their second week of in-person training since the start of the institute on July 5 2022.

The three selected representatives from the CNMI—NMI Museum docent Archie Ajoste, Joeten Kiyu Public Library's director Erlinda Naputi, and Commonwealth Council of Arts and Culture's Tyler Warwick—are finishing off a second week of the "Weaving a Net(work) of Care for Oceanic Collections" in-person program at the Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Museum Institute in Hawaii that Ajoste described as "exceptionally enlightening."

Along with learning the techniques used in other museums, Ajoste noted that he has had many interactive moments with other colleagues and international curators. He said that being in Hawaii for the training has helped him to more deeply understand the reason behind why he and other historic preservers do what they do, and how it affects their community and the generations to come.

He said that any Pacific islander—whether working in museums, libraries, archives, conservations, or collections—"can do the job no matter the age, race, and ethnicity" they may belong to.

Naputi told *Saipan Tribune* that she has learned a lot. She spoke of the monthlong instructional and hands-on learning activity, which included visits to the Bishop Museum, the Mission House, Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture, Oilani Palace, and the Hawai'i State Art Museum.

When asked on her thoughts on the future of NMI's preservation of culture and artifacts post-training, Naputi responded "I can share that with all the training that we are learning, we can help each other take better care of our artifacts and preserve our culture, language, and local history. Also, listening to all our special guests share their experiences, professional or personal, is very inspiring."

The 'Weaving a Net(work) of Care: A Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Museum Institute' officially began on Jan. 24, 2022 as virtual seminars and continued twice every month until July 5, 2022, when the in-person training began in Honolulu. July 29, 2022, will be the final day of the monthlong convention.

Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the NHPIMI is providing early to mid-career professional development to 20 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders working in museums and cultural heritage centers in Hawai'i and the Pacific, including Hawai'i, Guam, American Samoa, the CNMI, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau.

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Camacho and Bogdan seek retention on the bench

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Camacho

Superior Court associate judges Joseph N. Camacho and Wesley M. Bogdan are seeking retention on the bench this Nov. 8 general election.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla Igitol said Wednesday afternoon that the Judiciary called to inform that Camacho and Bogdan will go to CEC today, Friday, to submit their letters of intent to seek retention.

Bogdan

Igitol also told Saipan Tribune that, as of yesterday, CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona has yet to notify their office whether he is going to run for retention.

It is the second time that Camacho will be going for retention election, while this will be Bogdan's first.

At the November 2016 election, Camacho received an overwhelming number of votes for his retention on the bench. He first ascended to the Superior Court in November 2011.

Bogdan officially assumed the post of associate judge in November 2017 after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres appointed him to the bench.

A judge's term is six years, while it's an eight-year term for a justice.

If Manglona decides to seek retention, it will be his third time.

At the November 2007 election, voters overwhelmingly voted for Manglona's retention as associate justice. At the November 2014 election, voters again overwhelmingly retained Manglona as associate justice. His term expires in 2024.

Manglona ascended to the Superior Court as associate judge in 1998. In 2000, then-governor Pedro P. Tenorio appointed him to become an associate justice for the Supreme Court.

Under a constitutional amendment, the question of whether justices or judges will be retained shall be put to a vote at a general election immediately before the end of that justice's or judge's initial term of office.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of July 15, 2022

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA)	05/17/2022 SMS-03-X-21-A1	Airport Rescue & Fire Fighting Facility (ARFF) Rapid Refill Project	Dandan, Saipan	Major Siting	For Final Determination*
2. Triple J Saipan, Inc.	05/19/2022 TMS-2022-035	Triple J Barracks & Commercial Building	Marpo Valley, Tinian	Major Siting	For Final Determination*
3. BSEA Inc. dba BSEA Sunsports	05/25/2022 SLR-2018-X-076-R5	Banana Boat & Snorkeling Tour	Saipan & Managaha Lagoon Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/06/2022
4. BSEA Inc. dba BSEA Sunsports	05/25/2022 SLR-2018-X-077-R5	Parasailing Operations	All Designated Parasailing Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/06/2022
5. Mariana Growth LLC	05/26/2022 TMS-2022-038	Tinian Quarry	Marpo Valley, Tinian	Major Siting	For Final Determination*
6. Macro Energy, Inc	06/15/2022 SLR-2018-X-123-R5	Scuba Diving Tour/Instruction	Grotto, Laulau Bay & Obyan Beach, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/11/2022
7. Shining Star, Inc. Shining Star Trading	06/21/2022 SMS-2022-043	Shining Star Hotel Improvement Project	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Major Siting	Certified Complete* 07/13/2022
8. Jicheng (USA) Corporation Jicheng	06/24/2022 SPIm-2022-044	Land Clearing Project	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 07/01/2022
9. Island Marine Sports, Inc.	06/27/2022 SLR-2018-X-110-R5	Parasailing	Area Surrounding Managaha, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/08/2022
10. Luana Inc. dba Heart of Gold Divers	06/27/2022 SLR-2018-X-163-R5	Scuba Diving Operation/Instruction	Grotto, Laulau Bay, Obyan Beach, Wing Beach, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/12/2022
11. Office of the Mayor, Tinian	06/27/2022 TSm-2022-006	Demolition of Pavilions Tinian	San Jose, Shoreline		Approved* 07/06/2022
12. Saipan Marine Dive Co., Ltd. dba Saipan Marine Dive	06/27/2022 SLR-2018-X-073-R5	Scuba Diving Operation/Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/12/2022
13. Department of Public Works (DPW)	06/28/2022 SMS-00-X-129-A1	As Gonno Solid Waste Transfer Station	As Gonno, Saipan	Major Siting	Certified Complete 07/13/2022
14. B&J Corporation dba Dive Y2K	06/28/2022 SLR-2021-053-R2	Scuba Diving Tour	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/12/2022
15. Marianas Seas Adventures, Inc.	06/30/2022 SLR-2018-X-071-R5	Scuba Diving Tour	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
16. Mark Arnold Santos dba Mac's Marine	06/30/2022 SLR-2018-X-112-R5	Banana Boat, Parasailing, Lagoon Tour & Seawalker	Shipping Channel, Smiling Cove & Managaha, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
17. Auto Marine, Inc.	06/30/2022 SLR-2018-X-113-R5	Banana Boat, Parasailing, & Seawalker	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
18. Aquaville, Inc.	06/30/2022 SLR-2018-X-146-R5	Banana Boat & Seawalker	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
19. Aquaville, Inc.	06/30/2022 SLR-2018-X-145-R5	Scuba Diving Tour/Instruction & Hydrobob	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
20. Ben & Ki Water Sports, LLC	06/30/2022 SLR-2018-X-140-R5	Banana Boat & Wakeboard	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/08/2022
21. J&K Marine Sports, Inc dba J&K Marine Sports	06/30/2022 SLR-2018-X-102-R5	Personal Watercraft w/Accessory Use (Jetovator)	Beach Areas Fronting Kanoa Resort, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
22. J&K Marine Sports, Inc dba J&K Marine Sports	06/30/2022 SLR-2018-X-069-R5	Banana Boat, Snorkeling & Wakeboard	Lagoon Areas Fronting Kanoa Resort, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
23. Asia Pacific, Inc. dba Asia Marine Sports	06/30/2022 SLR-2021-050-R2	Water Jet Craft & Parasailing	Designated Water Jet Craft & Parasailing Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
24. Asia Pacific, Inc. dba Asia Marine Sports	06/30/2022 SLR-2018-X-111-R5	Banana Boat & Snorkeling Tour Operation	All Designated Banana Boat & Snorkeling Zones/Sites	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
25. Saipan A-Venture, LLC dba Saipan Adventure	06/30/2022 SLR-2018-X-099-R5	Snorkeling Tour Operation	Grotto, LaoLao Bay & Forbidden Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
26. Ringo Reyes, dba SUP Tinian	07/07/2022 TLRm-2022-007	Paddleboard Rental Tinian	All Designated Zones,	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
27. AC USA, Inc.	07/11/2022 SLR-2022-046	Scuba Diving Tour	LauLau Beach, Obyan Beach, Grotto & West Island Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
28. Sydney J. Takahashy dba Fishguyz Scuba & Charter	07/11/2022 SLR-2018-X-141-R5	Scuba Diving Tour Operations	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
29. Department of Public Safety (DPS)	07/12/2022 SPI-2022-047	Existing DPS Safety Building Extension	Smiling Cove Marina, Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
30. Kyung Yi Lee	07/13/2022 SS-2022-048	East Bay Land Clearing	Laulau/East Bay, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
31. Esther S. Chong	07/13/2022 SS-2022-049	Residential Dwelling Renovation & Extension	San Jose, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Two from Saipan join Utah university's Class of 2022

SALT LAKE CITY, UT—Two students from the CNMI recently joined the more than 8,000 graduates who make up the Class of 2022 of the University of Utah who graduated during an in-person commencement ceremony on May 5, 2022, after two years of virtual celebrations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hyun Woo Jo of Saipan earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication in the fall semester of 2021, graduating with cum laude honors.

Another Saipan-born student, Dianne Marie Pablo, earned a Master of Science degree in Geographic Information Science in the spring semester of 2022.

"The Class of 2022 is filled with so many amazing students, with unique and remarkable stories. Among our recent graduates we have a decorated student veteran of the year, an Olympic skier and a Rhodes Scholar—the first at the U in 20 years," said Taylor Randall, president of the University of Utah. "All of our graduates helped create a rich, diverse and vibrant environment during their time at the U. We appreciate their dedication as scholars and their enthusiasm for building a better future."

Students in the Class of 2022 ranged in age from 21 to 73 and earned 8,702 degrees. Graduates represented 55 U.S. states and territories, and 65 foreign countries. ***(PR)***

NMC info session today, July 15

The public is invited to attend Northern Marianas College's free information session today, July 15, 2022, at NMC's Olympio T. Borja Library in Building O. The info session will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

The session will cover topics that include financial aid options and admissions. Currently, up to $6,895 is available in federal financial aid to qualified students.

Participants of the info session will also qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming fall 2022 semester, a saving of about $75.

NMC's fall 2022 semester will begin on Aug. 15, 2022. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6769/70/71/72 or email oar@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

4.6-magnitude quake near Saipan

At 10:18pm on July 14, 2022, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred at 121 kilometers north of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. ***(PR)***

4.7-magnitude quake northeast of Saipan

At 9:08pm on July 13 2022, a report of a 4.7-magnitude earthquake occurred 236 kilometers northeast of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. ***(PR)***

Flood advisory issued yesterday

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point issued a flood advisory yesterday that was in effect until 2:30pm in the afternoon on Saipan and Tinian.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Guam, urban and small stream flooding caused by excessive rainfall was expected. Satellite imagery shows additional showers moving into the region, with more heavy rainfall possible until 2:30pm. This was expected to cause minor flooding in low-lying and poor drainage areas.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUTER TERMINAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-007-19,** for the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Commuter Terminal Building Construction, Project No. CPA-SA-007-19 and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), Friday, AUGUST 26, 2022,** to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, construction of a new commuter terminal facility with four (4) airline offices and counter space, restaurant vendor space, restrooms for departure and arrivals, lactating room, office space/counter for U.S. Customs and Border Protection including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications. In addition, the contractor is provided an allowance for artwork to be provided at the new commuter terminal. The artwork will be locally themed including, but not limited to, painting, murals, or as determined and coordinated with CPA.

The Project is being financed by funds by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **THREE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS ($300.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless bids are cancelled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2022,** at the CPA Saipan Airport Conference Room to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Mr. Edward B. Mendiola, CPA's Deputy Director at edmendiola@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 237-6500.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of bid opening extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who picked up a DVD or attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED FORTY (540) calendar days.** Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND ($1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government wide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 11, 2022

PROPERTY FOR SALE

TRACT 22844-7
NOTICE OF AUCTION & SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned counsel, Attorney Robert T. Torres, the auctioneer (or his designee), for and on behalf of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund, will sell at auction, to the highest bidder, **on August 11, 2022, at 10 a.m.**, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Nanka Place, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Municipality, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described further as follows:

Tract 22844· 7 (part of Tract 22844-R2, original Tract 228844, Lot 315, H-695), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2086/90, the original of which was recorded on 13 MAR 90 as Documents No. 90-1005 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, and recorded again 19 MAR 90 as Document No. 90-1087 at Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before the sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.

2. Minimum Bid. Minimum bid for the sale of Tract 22844-7 is **Ninety-Four Thousand Three Hundred Fifteen Dollars and 50/100 (US $94,315.50)**. All bids shall be in writing and constitute a formal offer from each bidder. Bids may be submitted in advance in writing for the foregoing property. The minimum bid shall be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be submitted in person (at the auction), via e-mail, or in writing by delivery to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com **by 8:00 a.m., Chamorro Standard Time on the auction date.** Any person who submits his/her bid shall provide a copy of his/her valid Identification Card (valid CNMI Driver's License or Passport). A written bid shall include the bidder's signature, with his/her telephone number, mailing address, and any other contact information. The winning bidder shall be the person to whom the property is confirmed if the bid is accepted. The NMI Retirement Fund assumes no liability for any errors or omissions as to a bidder's name or identification if that information is not correctly indicated on the bid form. **Please contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for a bid form.**

3. Deposit and Payment. A non-refundable guarantee deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by the winning bidder, no later than 4 pm on that date, by payment to the Law Office of Robert T. Torres. The remaining balance shall be due within ten (10) calendar days from the auction sale. If the tenth calendar day falls on a weekend then the balance shall be due that Monday after the tenth calendar day. **All payments shall be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check.** Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of a 10% deposit, and any and all of the bidder's rights, title, and interest in the money shall revert to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund reserve the right to change any of the terms conducted and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

5. Quitclaim Deed to Winning Bidder: All bidders are notified that the NMI Retirement Funds, the Judgment – Creditor, shall issue a Quitclaim Deed to the Winning Bidder.

6. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are informed and cautioned to inspect the title and property including performing any title research, property inspection, boundary inspection, easement research, and encroachment research on the subject property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold **"AS IS"** and without any warranties including but not limited to habitability or fitness for purpose. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer. A copy of the appraisal report and other documents pertaining to the property to be sold at auction are available upon request for review in advance of the auction date.

DATED this 7th day of July 2022.

/s/_____
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer
for NMI Retirement Funds

Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Viola Alepuyo, fifth from left, leads the Marianas delegation in a meetings in Tokyo, Japan, on July 6, 2022, with president Tadashi Shimura of the Japan Association of Travel Agents, fifth from right. From left, MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo, Japan Tourism Resumption Investment Plan chair Masaru Sunaga, TRIP chair Ivan Quichocho, MVA board vice chair Gloria Cavanagh, Alepuyo, Shimura, JATA director of Outbound Travel Promotion Division Masahiko Inada, JATA deputy general manager of Outbound Travel Promotion Division Shoji Komoda, MVA Japan sales manager Kyoko Okabe, and MVA Japan in-country manager Takashi Ichikura. MVA

MVA strategizes with key partners in Japan

The Marianas Visitors Authority held a series of meetings last week with key travel partners in Japan to reaffirm cooperation in anticipation of resumed direct flight service between Tokyo and Saipan by United Airlines beginning Sept. 1, 2022.

On July 6, the MVA delegation led by board chair Viola Alepuyo met with president Tadashi Shimura and other representatives of the Japan Association of Travel Agents to discuss strategies to reboot the Japan market, which has been dormant since the beginning of the pandemic. Shimura expressed JATA's appreciation for the support being extended by the MVA, including free PCR tests for Japanese before embarkation back to Japan and other incentives that were unveiled at Friday's (July 8) Marianas Seminar & Webinar in Tokyo.

"Our sales meetings last week were extremely positive," said Alepuyo. "There is a lot of support from our travel partners, who agree that now is the right time to begin opening Japan. Although we cannot meet with everyone in person, as we normally do, JATA agreed that the Marianas Seminar & Webinar held last Friday would be a very good way to release information to travel agents about the Saipan-Narita direct flights. Japan's entry quota is currently at 20,000 per day, so this will be a challenge for the Japanese market. However, there is expectation that the Japanese government will increase this number. We are grateful for the support and we are optimistic about the relaunch and gradual rebuilding of the Japan market under the Tourism Resumption Investment Plan."

The MVA provided JATA with an update on hotel room availability and recent renovations of hotel properties in the Marianas. JATA also inquired about interisland travel for those travelers interested in venturing beyond Saipan, should the duration of their visit allow. The MVA also shared about the recently completed Pacific Mini Games and the facilities that have been newly renovated, creating more opportunity for sports tourism, including training camps.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: MARIA REAGEN REBUENOG, Deceased.

Civil case No. 19-0345

NOTICE OF HEARING ON MOTION TO REOPEN CASE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Motion to Reopen Case in the above-entitled matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding / Associate Judge, on the 22nd day of September 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the Guma' Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby to notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2022.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055 Saipan MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 | Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: https://cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 04-2022

Opening date: July 13, 2022 **Closing date: August 03, 2022**

Location: SAIPAN		**SALARY**
Positions:	(1) Internal Auditor	UNGRADED
	(1) Accounts Clerk	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr. to $13.04/hr.)
	(1) AOA Controller-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr. to $15.10/hr.)
Location: PORT OF SAIPAN		**SALARY**
Positions:	(1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I	PL 4/1 to 4/12 ($8.41/hr. to $14.38/hr.
Location: TINIAN		**SALARY**
Positions:	(2) General Maintenance I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr. to $13.04/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport***. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, August 03, 2022**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

MULTI YEAR FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FY 2022, FY 2023, AND FY 2024 PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-22

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide multi-year financial and compliance audit for FY 2022, FY 2023, and FY 2024. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC 40-50-225 (a)). The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning ***July 01, 2022***, upon a non-refundable payment of $100.00 in cash, cashier's check, certified check, or credit card to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than ***4:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, August 01, 2022***. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date _____

How's Your Hearing?

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- Custom fitted hearing aids
- Digital and ProgrammableTechnology
- Custom Communication Devices

Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
Email: rosshearingaids@yahoo.com

- **Wednesday, July 20th** 9:00am - 4:00pm
- **Thursday, July 21st** 9:00am - 4:00pm

at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan

Ross Hearing Aids

All interested patients should call Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling

234-3925/7

Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Parkland father rudely interrupts President Biden. Was he wrong?

Four years after his son Joaquin was shot and killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Broward County, Manuel Oliver's pain is still raw.

Right or wrong, he took his personal fight to the White House lawn on Monday. On national television, Oliver rudely interrupted President Joe Biden during an event meant to celebrate what many consider a bipartisan, but watered-down, law to reduce gun violence.

"Today is many things. It's proof that despite the naysayers, we can make meaningful progress in dealing with gun violence. Because make no mistake—" Biden was saying when Oliver jumped up from his chair on the lawn.

"We have to do more than that!" Oliver yelled from the audience, startling guests and the president.

Television footage shows Oliver standing and shouting at Biden, who briefly turned into "tough Joe" and ordered Oliver to "Sit down, you'll hear what I have to say. ... Let me finish my comments."

Oliver, who has become a well-known gun control activist in Florida, was approached by security and then escorted out. Was he disrespectful? Yes. But was his behavior totally understandable? Yes, too.

Oliver's outburst makes clear that no Minnie Mouse legislation will be enough until we do away with assault weapons. We, and every lawmaker, must be reminded of that daily—and sometimes rudely.

Social media has been mixed on whether Oliver should have shouted at the president. But then most on social media do not feel the pain Oliver and his wife continue to harbor at the violent loss of their 17-year-old to a troubled teen who legally purchased a weapon and turned into a vile school shooter on Feb. 14, 2018.

The new law in question, passed after recent mass shootings in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas, incrementally toughens requirements for young people buying guns, denies firearms to more domestic abusers and helps local authorities temporarily take weapons from people judged to be dangerous.

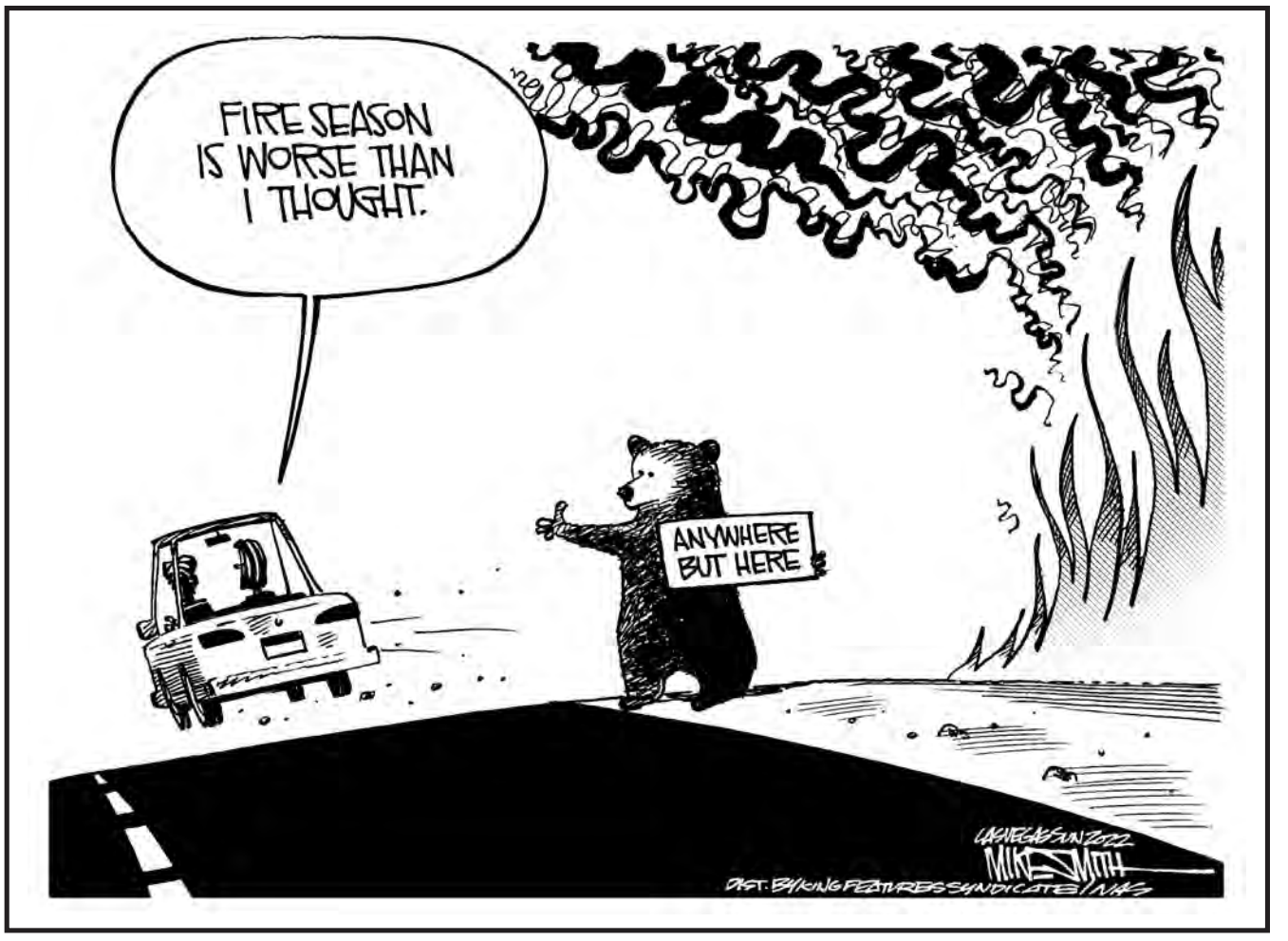
Oliver later told a Miami Herald reporter: "There's nothing to celebrate. It's a big lie. We lie between ourselves thinking we have a solution to this when we actually don't."

Oliver is right, but what the president was trying to bring home is that in this arduous battle, small victories must be acknowledged.

Oliver's anger may have been misplaced. Biden is not to blame; he has pushed to get at least some legislation passed.

Aggrieved Floridians could direct more blame toward Republican Florida Sens. Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, who voted against even this diluted legislation.

See PARKLAND on Next Page



Direct flights between Japan-Saipan will create more jobs for the CNMI

TOGETHER, WE CAN
By KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Kimberlyn King-Hinds serves as the chairwoman of the Commonwealth Ports Authority's board of directors and was elected as the Association of Pacific Ports president in July 2021. King-Hinds has had a distinguished career balancing the practice of law in the CNMI and serving the public in various capacities. King-Hinds is dedicated to devoting numerous hours serving the people of the CNMI on various government advisory boards and non-profit organizations.

When the COVID-19 pandemic started over two year ago, the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers tasked the Commonwealth Ports Authority to produce a Tourism Investment Program proposal to present to the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors. TRIP aimed to allow for the partial resumption of the tourism industry, which became known as the CNMI's tourism resumption blueprint.

When global tourism came to a halt, the sudden decrease in arrivals led to business closures and widespread employment disruptions. In addition to affecting the livelihood of our residents, it also had a devastating impact on the government's ability to generate revenue. We knew that certain markets like Japan were, and still are, very cautious about opening up for travel. We saw the need and put together the region's first successful plan to resume a level of travel to our islands, and even as the world is adjusting to the pandemic, we still see that vital markets like Japan are still very cautious about opening up for travel.

On July 2, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, MVA, and Sam Shinohara, managing director of Airport Operations for the Asia Pacific, announced the resumption of the direct flight between Saipan and Narita, Japan. We have not had a direct flight from Japan since 2018, more than four years ago, so this news is monumental for us.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

Starting Sept. 1, the Marianas will see an influx of an estimated 8,000 Japanese tourists through the end of the year. This historic event has allowed the CNMI to build back the special partnership we have with our partners in Japan.

As Japanese tourism once again return to our islands and aid in our recovery, opportunity is made available for many of our locals to vacation in or transit through Japan. This singular agreement made has produced a wealth of opportunities for our residents and our economy.

CPA is in the process of fully vetting every possibility to make improvements at the airport. We have a steadfast vision for a modern, beautiful port facility that will transform our Commonwealth in the eyes of the world market. Achieving this vision requires us to seek out new and innovative paths toward modernization to include assessing what a Public Private Partnership would look like. With federal funding available for infrastructure improvements, we are aggressively pursuing how we can avail of those funds to accommodate more tourists in the future.

I do believe that for us to have a world-class destination, we have to modernize our airports, and building a new terminal is something that the CNMI should consider. In the coming weeks, we will be organizing a task force made up of key industry and community stakeholders who can assist CPA in the deliberation process. In the meantime, we are making small aesthetic improvements to make our ports more welcoming.

Furthermore, with the resumption of direct flights between Saipan and Japan, additional arrivals translate into an economic benefit to our local economy. More tourists mean more Hotel Occupancy Tax collection, more jobs and business opportunities, and more people supporting local restaurants and stores.

With that said, all the credit goes to the Torres administration and MVA for their hard work that made this happen. We are extremely excited about what this means for our economy and for our traveling public who are looking to connect directly to other destinations. I'd also like to recognize the Office of the Governor, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and CNMI healthcare officials who were very involved in the planning stage.

As members of this beautiful community, let's do our part to keep our islands clean and beautiful. Be sure to show your Håfa Adai and Tirow spirit to our visitors and each other. The North-

See DIRECT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Many alternatives to Trump, Biden

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News*. Readers may write to him via email at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.*

Donald Trump is reportedly preparing an early announcement of his 2024 candidacy. The White House insists President Joe Biden will seek re-election.

But a lot of prominent figures in both the Republican and Democratic parties are behaving like they don't believe either will ultimately run – or think they're eminently beatable.

And the early maneuvering suggests both parties could face free-for-all nominating fights like the GOP in 2016 and the Democrats in 2020, starting the day after the Nov. 8 midterm elections.

Among Republicans, Trump has clearly sought to preempt the field by raising a multimillion-dollar war chest, choosing candidates in many GOP primaries and campaigning like it already is 2024.

But doubts about his real intentions, continuing threats of legal action and concern about the negative aspects of his prospective candidacy always made it likely Republicans would have the kind of contest faced by parties without an incumbent president.

Though the polls show the former president starts as the person to beat, his prospective opponents include many of his former closest aides – including former Vice President Mike Pence and former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

They're hardly the only ones. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, shown in recent polls as Trump's closest rival, has pointedly refused to say he'd back off if the former president runs. Outgoing Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, an anti-Trump moderate, has not ruled out a race. Nor has Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, perhaps the former president's most outspoken GOP foe.

And an imposing array of GOP senators and governors have followed the usual path that prospective candidates make to help fellow Republicans in such crucial early voting states as Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina.

The Democratic outlook for 2024 is even more complicated: The party has a weak incumbent vowing to seek a second term – and an unsettled nominating calendar.

But Biden's vows are not deterring other candidates, though most of their moves are more covert than overt.

The reasons are obvious: Biden's age (he would be 86 at the end of a second term); his unpopularity (job approval below 40); and widespread opposition to his running again (a New York Times poll this week showed more than half of Democrats oppose his seeking re-election – though it also showed him beating Trump).

Those making tacit opening 2024 moves include two prominent big state governors – California's Gavin Newsom and Illinois' J.B. Pritzker – and a member of Biden's own Cabinet, Transportation Secretary and 2020 also-ran Pete Buttigieg.

Newsom, facing weak re-election opposition in November, recently took the unusual step of running an anti-DeSantis television ad in Florida. It urged Floridians to fight GOP efforts to curb freedom through legislation limiting classroom speech and abortions — or move to California to find it.

DeSantis responded in kind, criticizing California's lockdown policies during the COVID-19 pandemic and accusing Newsom of treating his own state's citizens "like peasants."

Pritzker, who recently campaigned for fellow Democrats in the first primary state of New Hampshire and Maine, provided a sharp contrast with Biden's more restrained response to the recent spate of gun murders, saying he was "furious" and demanding action. Like Newsom, he is heavily favored for re-election this November.

Any list of potential 2024 hopefuls would also include two other Democratic governors – New Jersey's Phil Murphy and North Carolina's Roy Cooper – and one former governor – Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo.

Pritzker is not the only potential 2024 candidate making the trek to New Hampshire. Two others who ran last time, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, have also been there.

Meanwhile, Buttigieg's Cabinet position provides a built-in governmental platform to tour the country, touting the job-creating projects being launched by last year's massive bipartisan infrastructure law.

The former South Bend, Indiana, mayor also took some political steps. He moved to Traverse City, Michigan, the hometown of his husband, Chasten, ostensibly because the latter's parents could help provide childcare for their recently adopted twins.

Of course, Michigan, a swing state that often votes Democratic, might provide a better launching pad for future political endeavors than heavily Republican Indiana. And it may wind up with one of the earliest primaries.

Buttigieg also reactivated his political action committee to help endangered Democratic candidates this year. And he was the highest-ranking Democrat to attend a meeting of the Democratic National Committee's finance council this spring in South Carolina.

The most obvious Democratic alternative to Biden, of course, is his vice president, former California Sen. Kamala Harris. She had a rough year politically, given the negative stories about her staff problems and her lack of influence within the administration.

But the Supreme Court's decision reversing its Roe v. Wade abortion ruling gives her a powerful platform to campaign on this fall, stressing an issue important to Democrats that could help them counter a potential GOP tide.

Still, Democrats expect Harris to face opposition should she seek to succeed Biden in 2024. And though age could be a factor in deterring Biden's candidacy, an aide to Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders said the Vermont independent might also enter an open 2024 race, though he is even older than the president.

Until the Nov. 8 midterm elections, expect a continuation of the shadow 2024 campaign. But once the results are in, it's likely to emerge openly, in ways unpredictable at present.

DIRECT

From Page 10

ern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 showed us that we are amazing hosts and that we can accomplish anything we set our minds to when we work together! We should maintain that spirit of cooperation and believe that when we are working together, anything is possible. Together, We Can!

For more information about how your group can participate in any of GCEA's programs, visit the GCEA website at cnmieconomy.com. Engage with GCEA on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

PARKLAND

From Page 10

Oliver is not the first Parkland parent to stage the disruption of a national event. In 2020, Fred Guttenberg, whose 14-year-old daughter, Jaime, was also killed at Parkland, was a guest of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi when he disrupted then-President Donald Trump's State of the Union address.

Oliver's heart-wrenching outburst reminded us of the horror of Parkland. Yes, four years on, many of us have moved on. And for that, we're to blame.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CHCC's Medical Referral Program and recommendations

I'm sure many in the community are glad to see the Medical Referral program is finally being addressed to make it "fiscally responsible, sustainable and always functioning as the last resort to assist patients." I have no doubt that Ms. Muna is a good administrator who is doing the very best that she can, especially when she already has a hospital to run and making sure "everyone, every primary care giver and every patient is fiscally responsible" comes with the job. The explanation given about the program was truly informative, which shed a lot of light on the program and I want to thank Ms. Muna and the CHCC board for all they are doing to try and help patients with referrals.

However, while there was some mentioning of patients coming to CHCC for referrals, I think it is prudent to address the fact that some patients were adversely affected by the new rules. I wish the recently shared information on the program had been shared when CHCC first started to implement the new rules for the program back in January. Not to condemn what CHCC is doing but there was some confusion and even a conflict with the Kagman Community Health Clinic's referral, which is federally funded that seems to be in some kind of a conflict with the new rules regarding referrals. To date, this conflict has not been fully resolved but I would like to strongly suggest that CHCC send something official in writing to the Kagman clinic, as the director told me they were still waiting on something official so they can take the appropriate action that will allow their patients to be sent on referrals to Guam or wherever by the Medical Referral program or by the Kagman Community Health Center.

In the meantime, I would like to respectfully suggest: Any patients from the KCHC or any private clinic who needs a referral and is denied need to change your primary care to another clinic and/or even to the CHCC's Family Clinic that will make you eligible to be referred if the services or specialists are not at CHCC until the conflict is resolved. Adversely affected patients were never told or given this option, which is why I'm sharing this very important option to patients. Hopefully no other patients will be faced with being denied solely because of their primary care facility is unable to send you on a referral.

But I do want to reiterate my sincere appreciation to CHCC and all they are doing to make sure the Medical Referral program will function like it should with real fiscal responsibility and accountability. I must also thank Rep. Tina Sablan for truly being dedicated in trying to help and get to the bottom of the conflict and I pray she can help fix the problem, especially if the Senate will act on her bill–but we know the chances are not good for the bill given she is running for governor and trying to really fix the program for the people–I hope the Senators are reading this as voters are.

Food for thought

The audit on the Medical Referral program showed that tens of millions have literally been wasted and the CHCC board needs to check this out. The program was never properly structured with virtually no checks and balance nor any kind of reconciliation of the expenditures. I actually shared with the governor and the Medical Referral program director back in 2013 based on what I saw as a patient that it would be prudent for CHCC to immediately restructure the program with the appropriate governance system and to seriously look at making a permanent footprint with the program in Guam. It's clear the CNMI will be dependent upon specialists in Guam for a very long time and shouldn't remain a renter class but owners of a CNMI hotel and/or a complex. I know that a previous Guam governor with whom I briefly discussed this was open to making a land swap with the CNMI to build a hotel without having to purchase the land, so please work at having a permanent footprint in Guam and not remain a renter. The CNMI can even get a loan using the hotel for collateral, which would truly make it cost-effective to build, as thinking "sustainability" is truly having a permanent ownership-footprint in Guam.

The referral program is paying more than enough in renting rooms to build our own hotel for patients, and there is only one hotel in Guam that's really suited for patients but they only have six kitchenette rooms. Having our own CNMI hotel/complex will be better for patients. We will save tens of millions over time and it will also be the epicenter for reuniting CNMI relatives with Guamanians, especially if Guam will build some kind of a liaison center/hotel on their land in the CNMI that will encourage Guamanians to visit Saipan through the swap that will be the focal point for reuniting the people and promoting cultural practices on Saipan and in Guam. Pretty soon, locals in Guam won't have a real connection to the locals in the CNMI as the cost of travel has all but ended social visits between islands and people get old and time has a way of changing and even devastating cultures and entire societies, especially if there is no maintenance to keep them functioning and connected. I pray my recommendations will be seriously considered, as they are well-thought-out and based on real facts on the issues facing the Medical Referral program.

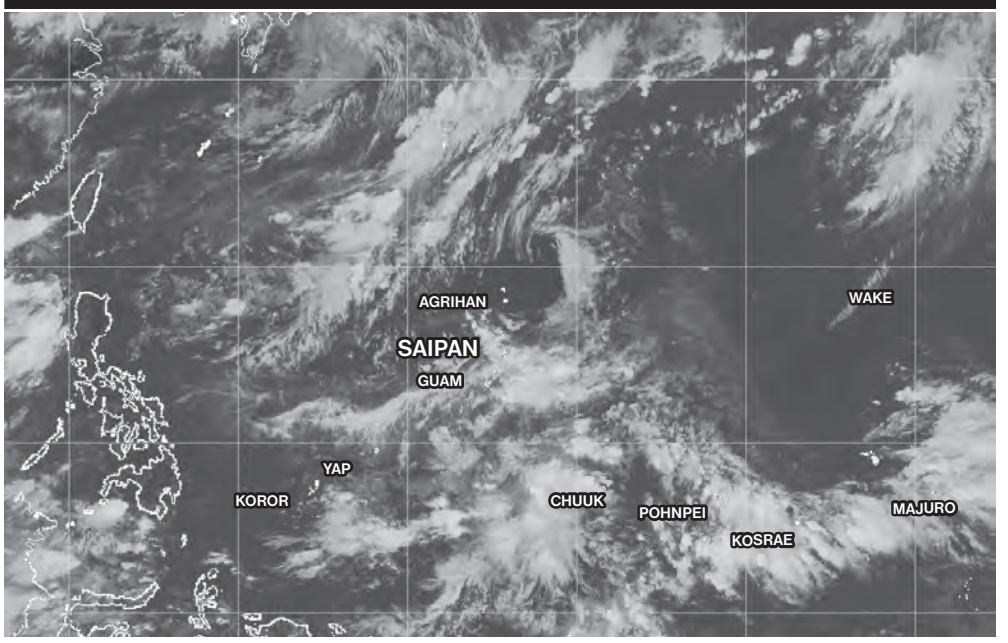
Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Scattered Showers	Mostly Sunny	Partly Sunny	Partly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
86° 76°	87° 76°	88° 78°	89° 76°	89° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 1:58 PM, THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Heavy showers have formed across much of the region as the trough expected to move through tonight has arrived early. Satellite derived winds shows outflows up to 25 knots and spotters have reported heavy rain and localized flooding in Tinian and Saipan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	81° / 74°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°
Pohnpei	Few Showers	84° / 76°
Kosrae	Showers	84° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:06 AM	8:30 PM
Saturday	-	8:12 AM	9:20 PM
Sunday	-	9:13 AM	10:04 PM
Monday	-	10:09 AM	10:44 PM
Tuesday	-	11:02 AM	11:22 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	58° / 49°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	97° / 75°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	89° / 83°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	79° / 58°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	81° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	59° / 47°
Miami	Showers	88° / 79°
New York	Partly Cloudy	90° / 71°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	84° / 75°
Paris	Sunny	83° / 60°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	86° / 74°
Rome	Sunny	95° / 69°
Salem	Thunderstorms	85° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	68° / 55°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	87° / 71°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	81° / 73°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	90° / 70°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:45 AM	Low Tide	1.50
7:32 AM	High Tide	2.27
3:06 PM	Low Tide	-0.49
10:16 PM	High Tide	2.18

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	4, 6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	4, 6, 7
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

NMTech hosts Guam Contractors Association info session

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute accommodated last Tuesday, July 12, 2022, over 40 individuals from various businesses in the construction industry on its campus for an initial information session cohosted by the Guam Contractors Association and NMTech. The intent of this meeting was to gather business owners, key partners, and stakeholders who have shared goals in capacity building projects within the CNMI as we continue to work toward growing and developing our workforce and our economy. NMTech's end goal is to establish a CNMI Chapter contractors association under the Guam Contractors Association umbrella.

Over 40 individuals attend an information session cohosted by the Guam Contractors Association and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute last Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at the NMTech campus. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Guam Contractors Association was represented by its president, James Martinez, and its administrate manager, Desiree Lizama. They presented on the association's purpose and objectives, governance of the organization, committees within the group, and membership benefits. Also present were invaluable partners, such as the Department of Labor Workforce Investment Agency to present on the Registered Apprenticeship Program, the Northern Marianas College to present on the State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant, and the CNMI Department of Labor OSHA presenting on the available resources and services that they are able to offer.

NMTech CEO Jodina Attao was connected to the Guam Contractors Association through Patrick McGlew of Procurement Technical Advisory Center in the CNMI and Bert Johnson of the Guam Trades Academy back in April 2022. Within a week span, NMTech was able to fly to Guam to meet with the Guam Contractors Association and within three months, NMTech was able to host its first info session on Saipan.

"We would like to thank the community for coming out and joining us in support of a goal that will benefit contractors and the CNMI as a whole. We would also like to extend our gratitude to our partners from Guam Contractors Association. Lastly, a special thank you to our NMTech board of trustees for their endless support and attendance at this event," said an NMTech news release.

NMTech offers classes in the construction field including Carpentry, Electrical, Welding, HVAC, Construction Craft Laborer and Electronics Systems Technology under the National Center for Construction in Education and Research, a nationally recognized certificate in the United States. Call NMTech at 670-235-6684 or email admissions@nmtechcnmi.org for any inquiries. ***(PR)***

Chief Financial Officer (Saipan MP)
Responsible for reviewing & approving fin'l & acctg docs, assessing & evaluating the co's fin'l performance, setting the co's fin'l objectives, hiring & supv'g subordinates, Bach's deg in acctg, finance, or related, 3 yrs of managerial exp in the field of acctg, finance, or a related, professional knowl in Uniform System of Accounts for the Lodging Industry, & proficiency in MS Word, Excel, & Powerpoint reqd. Mail resume to Micronesia Resort Inc. at P.O. Box 5152 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950.

Pastry Head Chef (Saipan, MP)
Responsible for supv'g pastry preparation process, creating pastry items, testing pastry products, establishing performance standards, & performing food preparation, High School/GED, 5 yrs of professional pastry chef exp, & food handler's certificate reqd. Mail resume to Micronesia Resort Inc, at P.O. Box 5152, CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator
Richard V. Salas, Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 10:30AM** at the DCRM Learning Center, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center II, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

To minimize the threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, virtual public participation will continue and encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: hhtps://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance and most updated information as Zoom meeting access code may change.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of May 31, 2022 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
- 1) CRM Permit Application No. SMS-03-X-21-A1
  Project: AIRPORT RESCUE AND FIRE FACILITY RAPID REFILL PROJECT
  Applicant: COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) *The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is proposing to replace the existing water tanks, high-capacity water pumps, electronic controls, yard piping, and overhead ARFF vehicle refill piping within the existing ARFF facility in Dandan, Saipan.*
  - a. Agencies' Discussion
  - b. Agencies' Final Determination
- 2) CRM Permit Application No. TMS-2022-035
  Project: CONSTRUCTION OF TRIPLE J BARRACKS & COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS
  Applicant: TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC. *Triple J Saipan, Inc. is proposing to construct two 40-person barracks and one commercial building in Marpo Heights on Lot Nos. 023 T 21 and 023 T 22.*
  - c. Agencies' Discussion
  - d. Agencies' Final Determination
- 3) CRM Permit Application No. TMS-2022-038
  Project: CONSTRUCTION & OPERATION OF THE TINIAN QUARRY
  Applicant: MARIANA GROWTH, LLC.
  The Mariana Growth, LLC is proposing to construct and operate the Tinian Quarry on public land identified as Lot No. 266 T 05 in Marpo Valley, Tinian.
  - e. Agencies' Discussion
  - f. Agencies' Final Determination

III. OTHER MATTERS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS
Director, DCRM

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

2nd AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-003-19

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GENERAL AIRPORT TYPHOON YUTU FENCE REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for the procurement, furnishing and installation of chain link fencing and accessories (commercial and industrial grades), for the installation and general Typhoon Yutu repair/replacement work of its chain-link fences per this Scope of Work and associated Contract Documents, located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Project shall be in compliance with all current federal, state and local government agencies' rules and regulations. This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225.

The CPA Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an invitation for bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because CPA wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone, or that factors other than price, such as technical expertise and/or the quality of materials, should be considered in determining the successful contractor.

Proposals shall be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2ND floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of CPA.

Contractors are requested to submit one original and four (4) copies of their proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "**Proposal for General Airport Typhoon Yutu Fence Repairs and Replacements, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-003-19".**

The Scope of Work (SOW) may be picked up at the CPA Accounting Office upon payment of $50.00 per package. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeds what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package. Criteria for scoring proposals and proposal submission requirements are detailed in the Proposal Requirement section of the SOW.

Questions should be submitted to the CPA Executive Director, Christopher S. Tenorio, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the proposal submission date. Contractors are welcome to inspect the facilities that are not within any secured locations; however, site visits for the Air Traffic Control Tower and ARFF Training Facility should be coordinated with Ms. Prater at telephone number 670-237-6500 or via the email address written above. Responses to all questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who picked up a proposal package.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals. Therefore, proposers and their subcontractors must hold their proposal prices in effect for up to 180 calendar days.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d–4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: June 28, 2022

Business

US inflation surges anew in June

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. inflation surged to a new four-decade high in June because of rising prices for gas, food and rent, squeezing household budgets and pressuring the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates aggressively—trends that raise the risk of a recession.

The government's consumer price index soared 9.1% over the past year, the biggest yearly increase since 1981, with nearly half of the increase due to higher energy costs.

Lower-income and Black and Hispanic American have been hit especially hard, since a disproportionate share of their income goes toward essentials such as transportation, housing and food. But with the cost of many goods and services rising faster than average incomes, a vast majority of Americans are feeling the pinch in their daily routines.

AP

Delores Bledsoe, of Houston, Texas, replaces the nozzle after fueling up her rig at a truck stop in Carlisle, Pa., Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

For 72-year-old Marcia Freeman, who is retired and lives off of a pension, there is no escape from rising expenses.

"Everything goes up, including cheaper items like store brands," said Freeman, who visited a food bank near Atlanta this week to try and gain control of her grocery costs. Grocery prices have jumped 12% in the past year, the steepest climb since 1979.

Accelerating inflation is a vexing problem for the Federal Reserve, too. The Fed is already engaged in the fastest series of interest rate hikes in three decades, which it hopes will cool inflation by tamping down borrowing and spending by consumers and businesses.

COVID-19 shot option from Novavax OK'd

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

The U.S. is getting another COVID-19 vaccine choice as the Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday cleared Novavax shots for adults.

Novavax makes a more traditional type of shot than the three other COVID-19 vaccines available for use in the U.S.—and one that's already available in Europe and multiple other countries.

Nearly a quarter of American adults still haven't gotten their primary vaccinations even this late in the pandemic, and experts expect at least some of them to roll up their sleeves for a more conventional option—a protein-based vaccine.

The Maryland company also hopes its shots can become a top booster choice in the U.S. and beyond. Tens of millions of Americans still need boosters that experts call critical for the best possible protection as the coronavirus continues to mutate.

For now, the FDA authorized Novavax's initial two-dose series for people 18 and older.

"I encourage anyone who is eligible for, but has not yet received, a COVID-19 vaccine to consider doing so," FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf said in a statement.

Before shots begin, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must recommend how they should be used, a decision expected next week.

Novavax CEO Stanley Erck told The Associated Press that he expected the U.S. to expand use of the vaccine beyond unvaccinated adults fairly quickly.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Twitter: Attrition up a bit, companywide layoffs not planned

Twitter is telling its employees that it's not planning any companywide layoffs, but there could be some restructuring and organization changes as it heads into a legal battle over the potential sale to Elon Musk. The San Francisco company included the communication in a filing Wednesday with the Securities and Exchange Commission. It also says Twitter is losing workers at a slightly higher rate than in normal economic times, but attrition is in line with current tech industry trends. The company says it will monitor turnover "to ensure that we can quickly identify any areas of concern and help mitigate where possible." Twitter said it had planned to offer packages to retain employees, and on June 20, it had asked Musk to agree to programs that had been approved by the board and its compensation committee. The filing said that Musk has "not provided his consent to implement these programs." ***(AP)***

Panasonic selects Kansas for vehicle battery mega-factory

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)—Japan's Panasonic Corp. selected Kansas as the location for a multibillion-dollar mega-factory to produce electric vehicle batteries for Tesla and other carmakers, lured by the largest package of taxpayer-funded incentives that the state has offered a private business. The company and Gov. Laura Kelly announced the new project Wednesday, just hours after Kelly and eight top leaders of the Kansas Legislature signed off on a package of incentives worth $829 million over 10 years. The state had created a new program to offer incentives that could reach $1 billion or more only five months — because of Panasonic's project. State officials expect the new plant to have about 4,000 workers, which would make Panasonic a "top 20, easily" private employer for the state in terms of its size, Kansas Commerce Secretary David Toland said. He and other officials believe suppliers and other local businesses will create up to 4,000 new jobs, and there will be 16,500 temporary construction jobs. The company said it would invest about $4 billion in the plant in DeSoto, Kansas, a town with about 6,000 people and 30 miles (48 kilometers) southwest of Kansas City, Missouri. The town has been trying to redevelop a long-abandoned army ammunition plant.

Nation

Masks could return to LA as COVID-19 surges nationwide

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nick Barragan is used to wearing a mask because his job in the Los Angeles film industry has long required it, so he won't be fazed if the nation's most populous county reinstates rules requiring face coverings because of another spike in coronavirus cases across the country.

"I feel fine about it because I've worn one pretty much constantly for the last few years. It's become a habit," said Barragan, masked up while out running errands Wednesday.

Los Angeles County, home to 10 million residents, is facing a return to a broad indoor mask mandate later this month if current trends in hospital admissions continue, county health Director Barbara Ferrer said this week.

Nationwide, the latest COVID-19 surge is driven by the highly transmissible BA.5 variant, which now accounts for 65% of cases with its cousin BA.4 contributing another 16%. The variants have shown a remarkable ability to get around the protection offered by vaccination.

With the new omicron variants again pushing hospitalizations and deaths higher in recent weeks, states and cities are rethinking their responses and the White House is stepping up efforts to alert the public.

Some experts said the warnings are too little, too late.

"It's well past the time when the warning could have been put out there," said Dr. Eric Topol, head of the Scripps Research Translational Institute, who has has called BA.5 "the worst variant yet."

Global trends for the two mutants have been apparent for weeks, experts said—they quickly out-compete older variants and push cases higher wherever they appear. Yet Americans have tossed off their masks and jumped back into travel and social gatherings. And they have largely ignored booster shots, which protect against COVID-19's worst outcomes. Courts have blocked federal mask and vaccine mandates, tying the hands of U.S. officials.

7-Eleven offers $100K reward for arrest in holdups

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 7-Eleven convenience store chain offered a $100,000 reward Wednesday for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a masked gunman suspected of robbing six Southern California stores, killing two people and wounding three others.

A clerk, Matthew Hirsch, 40, was shot and killed at a Brea store and Matthew Rule, 24, was gunned down in the parking lot of a Santa Ana store during a five-hour string of holdups Monday morning.

Police in Ontario, Upland, Riverside and La Habra have said they believe 7-Eleven robberies there also are linked.

A customer was shot in the head and gravely wounded at a Riverside store and two people, one of them a clerk, were shot in La Habra but were expected to survive.

The Riverside shooting victim was identified by his family as Jason Harrell, 46. He was breathing on his own and was no longer in a coma, his brother David Makin told KNBC-TV.

"He has to keep fighting. Jason is a fighter and so we fully expect him to fight through his whole thing and win this battle," Makin said.

Both of the La Habra victims were released from a hospital on Wednesday, KNBC-TV reported.

One victim, Russell Browning, 60, lost many of his teeth when the gunman shot him in the mouth as he sat in his car, the station reported. The bullet came out through his cheek.

Browning had picked up milk and doughnuts at the store and was heading to his job as a truck driver, his family said.

"The wrong place at the wrong time. That's all it can go down as," Browning told KNBC-TV as he sat in a wheelchair.

Authorities have shared images of a masked man wearing what appeared to be the same black sweatshirt with a hood over his head. The sweatshirt had white lettering with green leaves on the front.

Man charged with rape of girl, 10, who traveled for abortion

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — An Ohio man has been charged with raping a 10-year-old girl whose case drew national attention following a doctor's comments that the child had to travel to Indiana for an abortion, an account that had led some prominent Republicans—including Ohio's attorney general and a congressman—to suggest it was fabricated.

Democratic President Joe Biden highlighted the case last week at the signing of an executive order aimed at protecting access to abortion as state after Republican-led state, including Ohio, enacted near-total restrictions after the U.S. Supreme Court's recent landmark ruling.

A detective testified Wednesday at an initial court appearance for the 27-year-old suspect that Columbus police learned about the girl's pregnancy after her mother alerted Franklin County Children Services on June 22, The Columbus Dispatch reported. The detective said the girl had an abortion in Indianapolis on June 30.

The detective said DNA from the Indianapolis abortion clinic was being tested to confirm paternity.

An Indianapolis physician who provides abortion services, Dr. Caitlin Bernard, had told The Indianapolis Star that an abortion had been provided for such a child because the girl couldn't get the procedure in Ohio under a newly imposed state ban on abortions at the first detectable "fetal heartbeat." A judge lifted a stay on the ban after the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling overturning Roe v. Wade.

Appearing Monday on Fox News, Republican Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost said he hadn't heard "a whisper" from law enforcement in Ohio about any reports or arrests made in connection with such a case.

"Another lie. Anyone surprised?" Republican U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan tweeted in reaction.

Then Wednesday, Jordan tweeted that the suspect "should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law." A message was left with his office Wednesday seeking comment.

Asia

Sri Lanka waits in confusion, anger for president to resign

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lankans woke up to confusion on Thursday, still waiting for their embattled president to resign after he fled the country, as the island nation fumes over an economic meltdown that has sparked political chaos.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his wife fled to the Maldives on Wednesday aboard an air force jet. He made the prime minister acting president in his absence—a move that further roiled passions among a public that blames Rajapaksa for an economic crisis that has caused severe shortages of food and fuel.

Rajapaksa had promised to resign by Wednesday night, and since Sri Lankan presidents are protected from arrest while in power it's likely he planned his escape while he still had constitutional immunity and access to a military jet. It was unclear exactly where he was in the Maldives, an archipelago of hundreds of islands famed for luxury tourist resorts, and where he planned to travel next.

On Wednesday, protesters, undeterred by multiple rounds of tear gas, scaled the walls to enter the office of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe as the crowd outside cheered in support and tossed water bottles to them.

A protester, carrying national flag, stands with others on top of the building of Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's office, demanding he resign after president Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country amid economic crisis in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Wednesday, July 13, 2022. AP

Protesters took turns posing at the prime minister's desk or stood on a rooftop terrace waving the Sri Lankan flag after the latest in a series of takeovers of government buildings by the demonstrators—who see the political maneuvers as delaying their goal of a new government.

Late on Wednesday night, crowds also gathered outside the Parliament. Demonstrators clashed with security officers who fired tear gas into the air.

Wickremesinghe's office declared a nationwide curfew and imposed a state of emergency giving broader powers to the military and police. The curfew was lifted early Thursday.

Over the weekend, the two leaders both said they would resign after protesters stormed Rajapaksa's and Wickremesinghe's official residences in a dramatic escalation of months of protests. Some set fire to Wickremesinghe's private residence, and his whereabouts were unknown.

The protesters blame Rajapaksa and his powerful, dynastic family for leading the country into an economic abyss, but they are also furious with Wickremesinghe, whom they accuse of protecting the president. Many believe that his appointment in May alleviated pressure on Rajapaksa to resign.

"We need both ... to go home," said Supun Eranga, a 28-year-old civil servant in the crowd on Wednesday. "Ranil couldn't deliver what he promised during his two months, so he should quit. All Ranil did was try to protect the Rajapaksas."

But Wickremesinghe has said he will not leave until a new government is in place. He has urged the speak of Parliament to find a new prime minister agreeable to both the ruling and opposition parties.

It's unclear when that might happen since the opposition is deeply fractured. But assuming that Rajapaksa resigns as planned, Sri Lankan lawmakers have agreed to elect a new president on July 20 who will serve the remainder of Rajapaksa's term, which ends in 2024. That person could potentially appoint a new prime minister, who would then have to be approved by Parliament.

The political impasse threatens to worsen the bankrupt nation's economic collapse since the absence of an alternative government could delay a hoped-for bailout from the International Monetary Fund. In the meantime, the country is relying on aid from neighboring India and from China.

N. Korea backs independence of breakaway regions in Ukraine

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has become one of the few nations in the world to recognize the independence of two Russian-backed separatist regions in eastern Ukraine in support of Russia's war against its neighbor.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry cut off diplomatic ties with North Korea in response and condemned Pyongyang's decision as undermining Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

North Korea has repeatedly blamed the United States for the crisis in Ukraine, claiming the West's "hegemonic policy" justified Russia's offensive in Ukraine to protect itself.

North Korea's state media said Thursday that the country's foreign minister, Choe Sun Hui, sent letters to leaders in the breakaway regions of Donetsk and Luhansk a day earlier to convey the North's decision to recognize their independence and its willingness to develop diplomatic relations with both.

Donetsk separatist leader Denis Pushilin acknowledged North Korea's decision Wednesday.

Luhansk and Donetsk together make up the Donbas region, a mostly Russian-speaking region of steel factories, mines and other industries in Ukraine's east. Separatists have controlled parts of both provinces since 2014, but Russian President Vladimir Putin recognized their independence only shortly before the invasion began in February. Syria has since recognized their independence as well.

US destroyer sails past Chinese-held South China Sea islands

BEIJING (AP)—The U.S. Navy on Wednesday sailed a destroyer close to China-controlled islands in the South China Sea in what Washington said was a patrol aimed at asserting freedom of navigation through the strategic seaway.

The guided-missile destroyer USS Benfold sailed past the Paracel Islands and continued thereafter with operations in the South China Sea.

The operation "upheld the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea," the 7th Fleet said in a news release.

Such operations are considered key to the U.S. Navy maintaining its presence in the Indo-Pacific, where China has grown its presence through a massive ship building campaign.

Beijing has also alarmed the U.S., Australia and New Zealand with the signing of a mutual defense agreement with the Solomon Islands, under which it could receive Chinese troops in emergencies and possibly establish a permanent Chinese military presence.

In response to the Benfold's passage, China's Southern Theater Command tracked the vessel's movements and ordered it to leave the area, Air Force Col. Tian Junli was quoted as saying on the Defense Ministry's website.

"Our troops in the military area are on high alert at all times to safeguard national sovereignty, security and peace and stability in the South China Sea," the ministry said.

China claims ownership over virtually the entire strategic waterway, through which passes around $5 trillion in global trade each year and which holds highly valuable fish stocks and undersea mineral resources. The Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan also lay competing claims to the region.

Heat wave, flooding leave multiple people dead in China

BEIJING (AP)—Flooding and extreme high temperatures have caused multiple deaths in eastern China as summer heat descends earlier than usual.

Record-high temperatures have been reported in Zhejiang province, just east of the global business hub of Shanghai, topping out above 42 degrees Celsius (107 degrees Fahrenheit) on Wednesday.

The neighboring coastal provinces of Jiangsu and Fujian were also suffering under high heat, while Henan, Sichuan and Heilongjiang further inland saw many hospitalized for heat stroke, with an as-yet unreported number of deaths.

Floods have also struck much of the country, with three people reported killed and five missing in Sichuan province's Pingwu county as of midday Wednesday. One person was reported dead and eight missing in Heilongjiang in the northeast.

Experts say such extreme weather events are becoming more likely because of climate change. Warmer air can store more water, leading to bigger cloudbursts when it's released.

Hundreds of thousands in south-central China have already been displaced by flooding. The flooding adds to economic woes brought on partly by stringent "zero-COVID" measures restricting travel and disrupting supply chains.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: PROFILIO KILELEMAN SATUR, Deceased. : Civil Case No. 19-0348 : NOTICE OF HEARING ON MOTION TO REOPEN CASE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Motion to Reopen Case in the above-entitled matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding / Associate Judge, on the 22nd day of September 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the Guma' Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby to notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2022.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: ROSA R. ANGALLEN, (a.k.a. Rosa Regin) Deceased. : Civil Case No. 19-0347 : NOTICE OF HEARING ON MOTION TO REOPEN CASE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Motion to Reopen Case in the above-entitled matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 22nd day of September 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the Guma' Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby to notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2022.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JOAQUINA KILELEMAN, Deceased. : Civil case No. 19-0346 : NOTICE OF HEARING ON MOTION TO REOPEN CASE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Motion to Reopen Case in the above-entitled matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding / Associate Judge, on the 22nd day of September 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the Guma' Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby to notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2022.

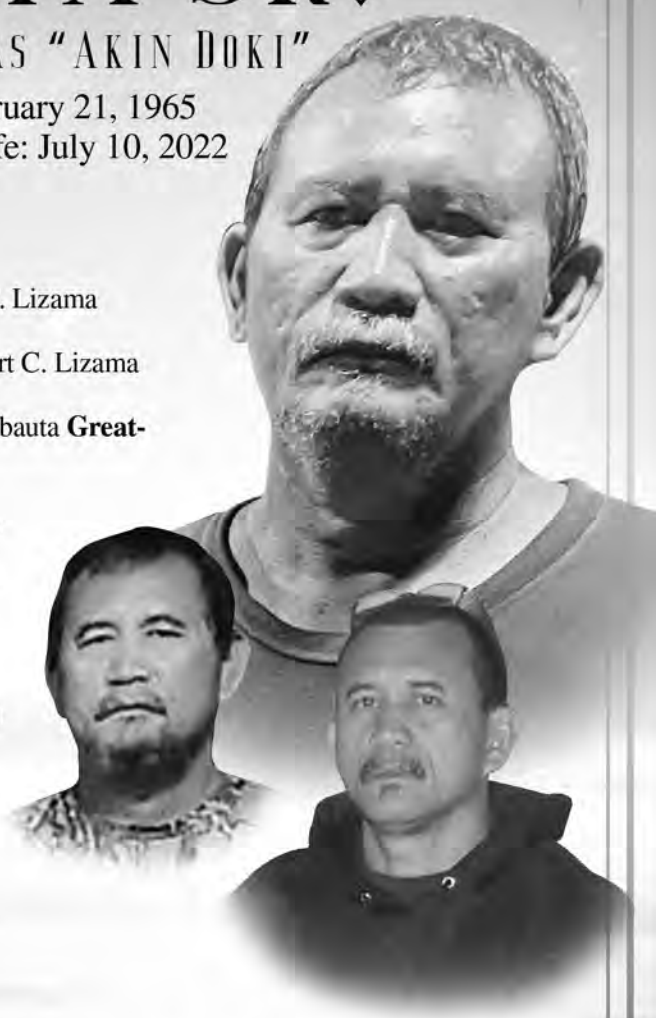
Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†JOAQUIN CABRERA BABAUTA JR.

BETTER KNOWN AS "AKIN DOKI"

Born to Life: February 21, 1965
Called to Eternal Life: July 10, 2022



In his new life he now joins his:
Mother: †Remedio C. Babauta
Sister: †Dolores B. Palacios
Parents In-Law: †Joaquin C. Lizama & †Monica C. Lizama
Brother In-Laws:
†Martin C. Lizama, †Augustin C. Lizama & †Norbert C. Lizama
Niece: †Kiara M. Lizama
Nephews: †Bryan B. Concepcion & †Cedrick B. Babauta **Great-Grand Niece:** †Elizae S. Cruz
GreatGrand Nephews: †Joey C. Songao Jr., †Anthony Jack P. Leon Guerrero & †Jessiah S. Cruz

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: Jenidina Lizama Babauta "Geraldine"
Children/Spouses/Grandchildren:
Monique B. & Jesse Agulto
(Jenidina, Jesse Jr., Jayden, Jase, Matthew & Micah)
Joaquin Jacob L. Babauta Jr.
Jordan Jonathan L. Babauta
Jerald Jerain L. Babauta & Marisol Luevanos
Brothers/Sisters/Spouses/In-Laws:
Susana C. Babauta & Jose Demapan and Family
Jose & Shrue M. Babauta and Family
Maria C. Babauta & Family
Rosa C. Babauta & Family
Lucia B. & Richard Concepcion and Family
Francisco & Maria Fe B. Babauta and Family
†Dolores B. & Joseph Palacios and Family
Raymond & Melinda P. Babauta and Family
Victoria Babauta & Thomas Santos and Family
David & Nena L. Babauta and Family
Vicente & Frany R. Babauta and Family
Francisco C. Babauta Jr.
Brothers/Sisters In-Law:
Raymond & Susan S. Palacios and Family
†Martin C. Lizama & Rita C. and Family
Joaquin Jr. & Frances D. Lizama and Family
Frances C. & Joaquin Castro and Family
Melva L. & Wayne Perry and Family
Edwin & Vivian M. Lizama and Family
Dennis & Coleen H. Cruz and Family
Nardin & Lori H. Lizama and Family
Jerome Cruz & Jesus Diaz
Vanessa Cruz & Family
Audybert C. Lizama & Family
Genoven C. & Jose Tyquiengco and Family
Zenaida L. & Stanley Santos and Family
Morendie C. & Anthony Aguon and Family
Frederico & Jessica DLC. Lizama and Family
Claudia L. & Anthony Leon Guerrero Jr and Family
Antonia L. & Irvin Songao and Family
Rita L. & John Blas and Family
Monica C. Lizama

Daily Mass is being said at San Jose Church as scheduled:
Mon. July 11th @ 6pm
Tues. July 12th @ 6pm
Wed. July 13th @ 6pm
Thurs. July 14th @ 6pm
Fri. July 15th @ 6pm
Sat. July 16th @ 6pm
Sun. July 17th @ 9am
Mon. July 18th @ 6pm
Tues. July 19th Funeral Day

Funeral services will be held on July 19, 2022. His remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to San Jose Church at 7:30am for final viewing and last respects. Mass of the Christian burial will be celebrated at 10am. Following the Mass, his remains will be brought back to Borja Funeral Home for Cremation.

He will truly be missed by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Godchildren, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, Extended Family and Friends

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase & Ghiliisow

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Ukraine: Russian attacks kill 10; US condemns deportations

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian missile strikes in Ukraine's southern city of Mykolaiv killed at least five people, Ukrainian authorities said Wednesday, part of a series of artillery and missile barrages across the country in the past day that left at least 10 dead and dozens wounded in eastern and southern regions. While Mykolaiv has repeatedly been the target of Russian fire in recent days, Russian missiles also struck the city of Zaporizhzhia on Wednesday, an attack that could signal Moscow's determination to hold onto territory in Ukraine's south as it aims to fully conquer the east. Ukrainian forces have stepped up actions in a bid to reclaim more territory in the south. Also Wednesday, the top U.S. diplomat accused Russia of committing a "war crime" by forcibly deporting hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian men, women and children to Russia with the intention of changing Ukraine's demographic makeup.

Mexico returns 8 bodies of migrants in Texas truck tragedy

MEXICO CITY (AP)— A Mexican air force plane landed at an airport near Mexico City on Wednesday, bearing eight bodies of the 53 migrants who were found dead in a truck in Texas last month. They were the first to be returned of the 26 Mexicans among those who died of heat and dehydration inside a locked truck trailer abandoned by smugglers on the outskirts of San Antonio on June 27. Temperatures that day approached 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius). Mexico's Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a statement Wedesday evening that the military plane was making a second trip to San Antonio on Wednesday to recover eight more victims.

Firefighting helicopter crashes off Greek island; 2 dead

ATHENS, Greece (AP)— Two members of a helicopter crew battling a forest fire on the Greek island of Samos died when it crashed into the sea, authorities said Wednesday. A Romanian national and a Greek liaison officer died in the crash, while two Moldovan nationals survived, a Coast Guard spokeswoman told the Associated Press. The Soviet-era Mi-8 helicopter, leased for firefighting operations from Ukraine, took off from Samos at 4:39 p.m. and crashed off the island at 5:55 p.m. Nine vessels, five from the Coast Guard, two from the army and two private, as well as a helicopter, took part in the rescue operation, the spokeswoman said. All the island's 27 firefighters plus four planes and a helicopter were fighting the blaze in a forested area on Samos, which lies close to the Turkish coast.

Wildfires scorch parts of Europe amid extreme heat wave

LISBON, Portugal (AP) —A spate of wildfires is scorching parts of Europe, with firefighters battling blazes in Portugal, Spain, Croatia and southern France on Wednesday amid an unusual heat wave that authorities are linking to climate change. In Portugal, Civil Protection commander André Fernandes said multiple fires have caused the evacuation of more than 600 people. About 120 people needed medical treatment, with two people—one civilian and one firefighter—suffering serious injuries, Fernandes said. Water-dumping planes helped 1,300 firefighters combat the worst of the blazes in the nation's central area, while another 1,000 worked to bring other fires under control. The European heat wave is also sparking flames in Spain and France — and in Turkey at the other end of the Mediterranean.

US tourist falls into crater of Mount Vesuvius, is rescued

ROME (AP) — An American tourist had to be rescued on Mount Vesuvius near Naples after he apparently slipped into the Italian volcano's crater while trying to recover his fallen cellphone, news reports and the association of Vesuvius park guides said. The tourist and family members were cited by Carabinieri police because they went off the authorized path to get closer to the crater on Saturday afternoon, apparently to take a selfie, the LaPresse news agency said. The head of the Confesercenti tourism association for Vesuvius, Paolo Cappelli, said four volcano guides responded immediately after one noticed the tourist had fallen into the crater and was in "serious difficulty." In a statement, Cappelli said the guides lowered a rope 15 meters (50 feet) into the crater, pulled the tourist out and provided initial first aid, after he suffered abrasions on his legs, arm and back.

Off The Wall

Blind, older dog found in Alaska 3 weeks after wandering off

SITKA, Alaska (AP)—An Alaska family had given up hope of finding their blind, elderly golden retriever who wandered away from their home three weeks ago, but a construction crew found Lulu in salmonberry bushes after initially confusing her for a bear.

Lulu was barely alive after being found Tuesday, but she is being nursed back to health and is back home with her family, the Daily Sitka Sentinel reported.

"She means everything," owner Ted Kubacki said. "I have five daughters and they're 4 to 13 years old, so they've spent every day of their life with that dog."

The Kubacki family searched for weeks after Lulu wandered off June 18.

"She's just so helpless, and you kind of imagined that she can't get real far because she can't see," he said.

It didn't help when the family was the subject of a terrible joke when someone claimed they found Lulu a few days into the search.

AP

Ted Kubacki gets a lick from the family golden retriever, Lulu, outside their house after being reunited in Sitka, Alaska, on Thursday, July 7, 2022.

"We put the kids to bed and got a text saying, 'We found your dog,' or 'I have your dog,' and we're like, 'Oh my god, this is incredible,'" he said. "Then the person texted me, 'Just kidding.' This happened, yeah, that was all part of this terrible story."

After searching weeks, the family had given up hope.

But then a construction crew this week spotted Lulu lying in the brush alongside a road not far from the Kubacki's home. She was about 15 feet (4.57 meters) down an embankment, and at first the crew thought it was a bear.

"They got a closer look and they realized that it was a dog, and they got her out of there," Kubacki said.

All the sadness melted away when he got the call that Lulu had been found.

"I called my wife from work and it was just screaming... She just starts yelling, then she yells to the kids. And I just hear them screaming like crazy," Kubacki said.

Although alive, Lulu was in bad shape. The 80-pound (36.29-kilogram) dog had dropped 23 pounds (10.43 kilograms) since she was lost; she was dehydrated, dirty and her fur was matted.

"I just expected to come back and be like 'Hey, here's my dog.' She's going to jump up and wag her tail and kiss my face, and she couldn't even pick up her head," he said. "She'd been through the wringer."

Lulu's condition has markedly improved with medical care, food and rest.

"Slowly but surely she started eating and she was kind of able to pick her head up," Kubacki said. "But then yesterday, she propped herself up on her front paws by herself, like nestled into me and gave me a kiss and wagged her tail and it was just so great."

Florida team hauls in 18-foot, 215-pound Burmese python

NAPLES, Fla. (AP)—A team of biologists recently hauled in the heaviest Burmese python ever captured in Florida, officials said.

The female python weighed in at 215 pounds (98 kilograms), was nearly 18 feet long (5 meters) and had 122 developing eggs, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida said in a news release.

The team used radio transmitters transplanted in male "scout" snakes to study python movements, breeding behaviors and habitat use, said Ian Bartoszek, wildlife biologist and environmental science project manager for the conservancy's program.

"How do you find the needle in the haystack? You could use a magnet, and in a similar way our male scout snakes are attracted to the biggest females around," Bartoszek said.

The team used a scout snake named Dionysus—or Dion for short—in an area of the western Everglades.

"We knew he was there for a reason, and the team found him with the largest female we have seen to date."

Biologist Ian Easterling and intern Kyle Findley helped capture the female snake and haul it through the woods to the field truck.

A necropsy also found hoof cores in the snake's digest system, meaning that an adult white-tailed deer was its last meal.

National Geographic documented the discovery, highlighting the continued impact of the invasive pythons, which are known for rapid reproduction and depletion of surrounding native wildlife.

Bartoszek said removal of female pythons plays a critical role in disrupting the breeding cycle.

"This is the wildlife issue of our time for southern Florida," he said.

Since the conservancy's python program began in 2013, they've removed over 1,000 pythons from approximately 100 square miles (25,900 hectares) in southwest Florida.

NASA: Give us back our moon dust and cockroaches

BOSTON (AP)—NASA wants its moon dust and cockroaches back.

The space agency has asked Boston-based RR Auction to halt the sale of moon dust collected during the 1969 Apollo 11 mission that had subsequently been fed to cockroaches during an experiment to determine if the lunar rock contained any sort of pathogen that posed a threat to terrestrial life.

The material, a NASA lawyer said in a letter to the auctioneer, still belongs to the federal government.

The material from the experiment, including a vial with about 40 milligrams of moon dust and three cockroach carcasses, was expected to sell for at least $400,000, but has been pulled from the auction block, RR said Thursday.

"All Apollo samples, as stipulated in this collection of items, belong to NASA and no person, university, or other entity has ever been given permission to keep them after analysis, destruction, or other use for any purpose, especially for sale or individual display," said NASA's letter dated June 15.

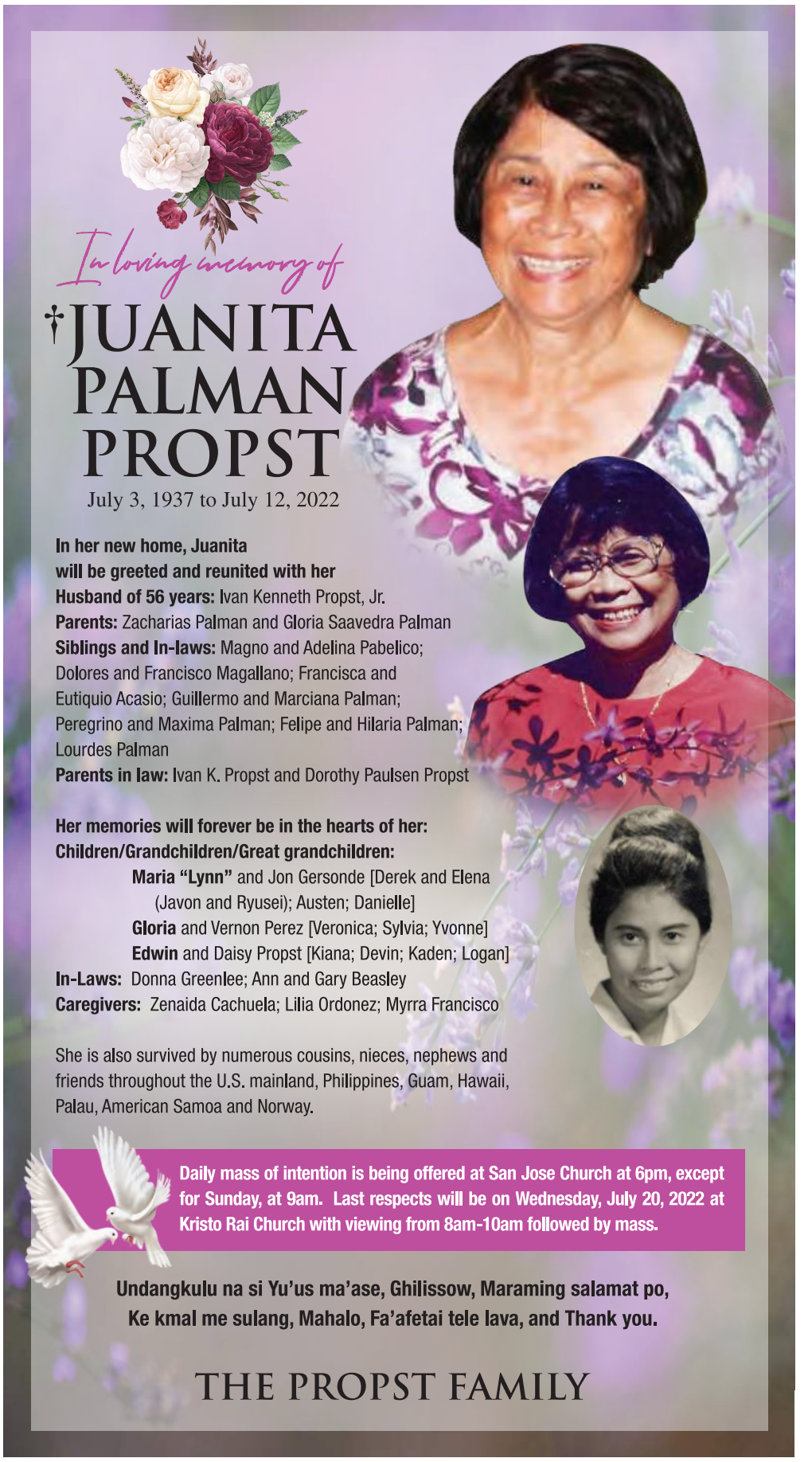
It went on: "We are requesting that you no longer facilitate the sale of any and all items containing the Apollo 11 Lunar Soil Experiment (the cockroaches, slides, and post-destructive testing specimen) by immediately stopping the bidding process," NASA wrote.

In another letter dated June 22, NASA's lawyer asked RR Auction to work with the current owner of the material to return it to the federal government.

The Apollo 11 mission brought more than 47 pounds (21.3 kilograms) of lunar rock back to Earth. Some was fed to insects, fish and other small creatures to see if it would kill them.

The cockroaches that were fed moon dust were brought to the University of Minnesota where entomologist Marion Brooks dissected and studied them.

"I found no evidence of infectious agents," Brooks, who died in 2007, told the Minneapolis Tribune for an October 1969 story. She found no evidence that the moon material was toxic or caused any other ill effects in the insects, according to the article.


In loving memory of
†JUANITA PALMAN PROPST
July 3, 1937 to July 12, 2022
In her new home, Juanita will be greeted and reunited with her
Husband of 56 years: Ivan Kenneth Propst, Jr.
Parents: Zacharias Palman and Gloria Saavedra Palman
Siblings and In-laws: Magno and Adelina Pabelico; Dolores and Francisco Magallano; Francisca and Eutiquio Acasio; Guillermo and Marciana Palman; Peregrino and Maxima Palman; Felipe and Hilaria Palman; Lourdes Palman
Parents in law: Ivan K. Propst and Dorothy Paulsen Propst
Her memories will forever be in the hearts of her:
Children/Grandchildren/Great grandchildren:
Maria "Lynn" and Jon Gersonde [Derek and Elena (Javon and Ryusei); Austen; Danielle]
Gloria and Vernon Perez [Veronica; Sylvia; Yvonne]
Edwin and Daisy Propst [Kiana; Devin; Kaden; Logan]
In-Laws: Donna Greenlee; Ann and Gary Beasley
Caregivers: Zenaida Cachuela; Lilia Ordonez; Myrra Francisco
She is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and friends throughout the U.S. mainland, Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, Palau, American Samoa and Norway.
Daily mass of intention is being offered at San Jose Church at 6pm, except for Sunday, at 9am. Last respects will be on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at Kristo Rai Church with viewing from 8am-10am followed by mass.
Undangkulu na si Yu'us ma'ase, Ghilissow, Maraming salamat po,
Ke kmal me sulang, Mahalo, Fa'afetai tele lava, and Thank you.
THE PROPST FAMILY

Science & Technology

Astronomer explains the stunning, newly released JWST images

By SILAS LAYCOCK
SILAS LAYCOCK, UMASS LOWELL

NASA, ESA, CSA, AND STSCI

This image released by NASA on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, shows the edge of a nearby, young, star-forming region NGC 3324 in the Carina Nebula. Captured in infrared light by the Near-Infrared Camera (NIRCam) on the James Webb Space Telescope, this image reveals previously obscured areas of star birth, according to NASA.

The James Webb Space Telescope team has released the first science-quality images from the new telescope. In them are the oldest galaxies ever seen by human eyes, evidence of water on a planet 1,000 light-years away and incredible details showing the birth and death of stars. Webb's purpose is to explore origins – of the universe, of galaxies, of stars and of life – and the five images released on July 12, 2022, make good on that promise.

Once the suite of instruments onboard all cooled down and were running smoothly, astronomers wasted no time in putting Webb to work. Each of the first images contains enough data to produce major scientific results on their own.

Webb was designed to collect light across the entire red to mid-infrared spectrum – wavelengths of light that are blocked by Earth's atmosphere. And with its giant mirror and sunshade blocking infrared emitted by the Sun, Earth and Moon, Webb can produce images of a sharpness never before achieved by any other telescope.

The buzz among professional astronomers like me has been electric since members of the Webb team shared tantalizing test images. And the real images are even better than anyone could have hoped for. During the presentation where the first images were released, Webb project scientist Jane Rigby remarked "for Webb there is no blank sky, everywhere it looks it sees distant galaxies." Most of those galaxies were invisible until now.

Ancient galaxies and the early universe

The first Webb image the world saw is of a galaxy cluster known to astronomers as SMACS 0723. It lies in the southern hemisphere sky and is 5.12 billion light-years from Earth.

The detail of the thousands of individual galaxies in the image is stunning. It is like the universe in high definition, and I encourage you to look at the full resolution image and zoom in to truly appreciate the details.

The large white galaxies in the middle of the image belong to the cluster and are similar in age to the Sun and Earth. Surrounding and interspersed among the cluster galaxies are more distant galaxies, but stretched into spectacular arcs as if seen through a magnifying glass. And that is exactly what is happening. The background galaxies are much farther from Earth but appear magnified, as their light is bent toward Earth by the gravity of the much closer cluster.

In the background you can see faint red galaxies scattered like rubies across the sky. Those galaxies are even farther away. By measuring precise attributes of their light, astronomers can tell that they formed over 13 billion years ago and even determine the abundance of different elements in these early galaxies.

Webb is not only producing incredibly sharp images, but it is doing so easily when compared to its predecessor, the Hubble Space Telescope, which was launched in 1990. As Rigby quipped, "… the Hubble Extremely Deep Field took two weeks of exposure, Webb went deeper before breakfast." Once Webb carries out longer observations that allow it to collect more light from faint stars or galaxies, astronomers will be able to see some of the first stars and galaxies that formed right after the Big Bang.

Understanding planets around other stars

The second reveal was not of an image but a spectrum – a breakdown of the strength of light at different wavelengths.

Webb pointed its mirror at the exoplanet WASP 96-B – a giant hot gas planet orbiting a star about 1,000 light-years from Earth – as the planet passed in front of its parent star. During this transit, a portion of the star's light was filtered through the planet's atmosphere and left a "chemical fingerprint" in the light's unique spectrum. The specifics of this fingerprint strongly suggest that there is water vapor, clouds and haze in the atmosphere of WASP 96-B.

As Webb moves on to observe smaller planets that could potentially harbor life, astronomers expect to detect the fingerprints of oxygen, nitrogen, ammonia and carbon in the form of methane and other hydrocarbons. The goal is to find biosignatures of life – that is, chemistry that would point toward the atmosphere being modified by living organisms.

The technical challenge of doing this type of observation, called transit spectroscopy, is enormous, and this initial result barely scratches the surface of the scientific content of the spectrum.

Galactic dances and the lives of stars

The last three images showed the incredible resolution of Webb's optics as the telescope explored the birth and death of stars.

Webb's ability to capture light in the mid-infrared range allows its cameras to cut through dense clouds of dust and gas. This ability helped Webb to capture spectacular details of the Carina Nebula where stars are born.

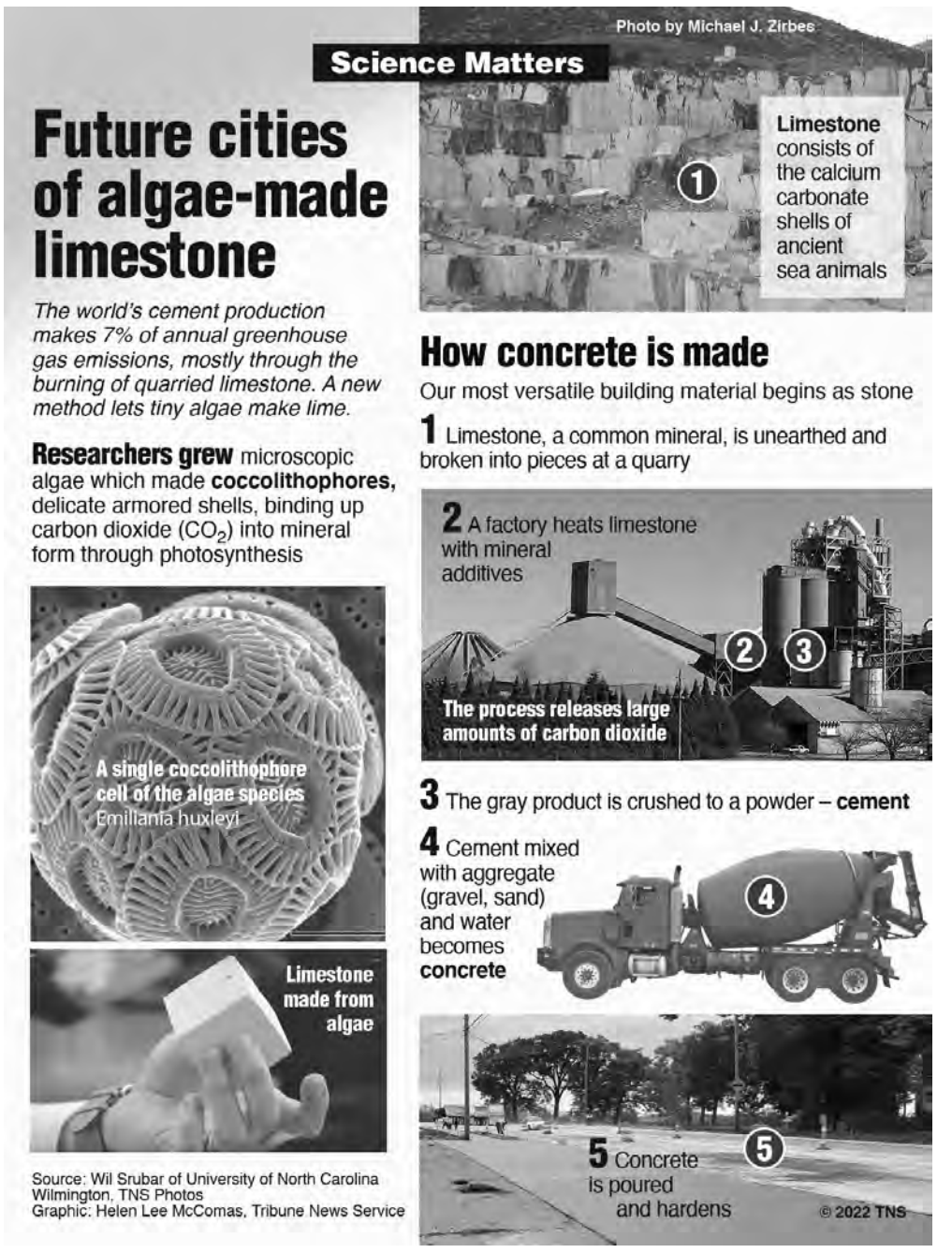
Webb is also excellently suited to study the end of a star's life. As stars get old, they can puff off their outer layers and form nebulas like the stunning Southern Ring Nebula, which was imaged by Webb. The image revealed never-before-seen details of successive waves of matter expelled by the dying central star. While Hubble was unable to see through the expanding cloud of dust and debris, Webb provided the first look at the binary star system that formed the nebula.

The last photo from Webb's coming out party showed Stephan's Quintet, a group of five galaxies 300 million light-years from Earth, interacting in a cosmic dance. Thanks to the suite of complementary instruments aboard Webb, the telescope can simultaneously pick up details of individual stars in these galaxies, see the cold dust and gas fueling star formation within these galaxies and – most remarkably – block out the stars, gas and dust to see the material swirling around the supermassive black hole at the center of one of the galaxies.

Webb also captured data on the spectra of hundreds of individual star-forming regions in the Quintet, which will take months to analyze and study.

Webb is the result of 25 years of work by thousands of scientists, engineers and administrators belonging to an international collaboration of space agencies, companies, research centers and universities worldwide. John Mather, a project leader for Webb, emotionally described the journey: "This was hard to do. It is difficult to express just how hard this was. There were so many thousands of ways it could have gone wrong."

But it didn't go wrong. It all came together, and now humanity's greatest space telescope is open for business.


Science Matters
Future cities of algae-made limestone
The world's cement production makes 7% of annual greenhouse gas emissions, mostly through the burning of quarried limestone. A new method lets tiny algae make lime.
Researchers grew microscopic algae which made coccolithophores, delicate armored shells, binding up carbon dioxide (CO_2) into mineral form through photosynthesis
A single coccolithophore cell of the algae species Emiliania huxleyi
Limestone made from algae
Photo by Michael J. Zirbes
Limestone consists of the calcium carbonate shells of ancient sea animals
How concrete is made
Our most versatile building material begins as stone
1 Limestone, a common mineral, is unearthed and broken into pieces at a quarry
2 A factory heats limestone with mineral additives
The process releases large amounts of carbon dioxide
3 The gray product is crushed to a powder – cement
4 Cement mixed with aggregate (gravel, sand) and water becomes concrete
5 Concrete is poured and hardens
Source: Wil Srubar of University of North Carolina Wilmington, TNS Photos
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
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Life & Style

Judge rejects Amber Heard's request to set aside Depp win

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP) — A Virginia judge on Wednesday rejected an effort by actress Amber Heard to set aside the $10 million judgment awarded against her in favor of her ex-husband, Johnny Depp.

Depp won a defamation suit against Heard last month in a high-profile civil trial. Heard won a smaller, $2 million judgement on a counterclaim she filed against Depp.

Earlier this month, Heard filed a motion seeking to have Depp's verdict set aside, or have a mistrial declared. Her lawyers cited multiple factors, including an apparent case of mistaken identity with one of the jurors.

In a written order, Judge Penney Azcarate rejected all of Heard's claims and said the juror issue specifically was irrelevant and that Heard can't show she was prejudiced.

"The juror was vetted, sat for the entire jury, deliberated, and reached a verdict. The only evidence before this Court is that this juror and all jurors followed their oaths, the Court's instructions, and orders. This Court is bound by the competent decision of the jury," Azcarate wrote.

Depp

Depp sued for $50 million in Fairfax County after Heard wrote a 2018 op-ed piece in The Washington Post about domestic violence in which she referred to herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse." The article never mentioned Depp by name, but his lawyers said several passages in the article defamed him by implication by referring to highly publicized abuse allegations she made in 2016 as she filed for divorce.

Heard then filed a $100 million counterclaim, also for defamation. By the time the case went to trial, her counterclaim had been whittled down to a few statements made by one of Depp's lawyers, who called Heard's abuse allegations a hoax.

The jury awarded $15 million to Depp and $2 million to Heard on her counterclaim. The $15 million judgment was reduced to $10.35 million because Virginia law caps punitive damages at $350,000.

The judge did not spell out rationale for rejecting Heard's other claims in Wednesday's order.

Among other things, Heard argued that the $10 million verdict is unsupported by the facts, and seems to demonstrate that jurors failed to focus on the fallout from the 2018 op-ed piece—as they were supposed to do—and instead just looked broadly at the damage Depp's reputation suffered as a result of the alleged abuse.

Heard's lawyers also argued argue that the verdicts for Depp on one hand and Heard on the other are fundamentally nonsensical.

"The jury's dueling verdicts are inconsistent and irreconcilable," her lawyers, Elaine Bredehoft and Benjamin Rottenborn, wrote.

Heard's lawyers also challenged the verdict on the basis that one of the seven jurors who decided the case was never summoned for jury duty. According to court papers, a 77-year-old county resident received a jury summons. But the man's son, who has the same name and lives at the same address, responded to the summons and served in his stead.

Heard's lawyers argued that Virginia law is strict about juror identities, and the case of mistaken identity is grounds for a mistrial. They presented no evidence that the 52-year-old son, identified in court papers only as Juror #15, purposefully or insidiously sought to replace his father, but they argue that possibility should not be discounted.

"The Court cannot assume, as Mr. Depp asks it to, that Juror 15's apparently improper service was an innocent mistake. It could have been an intentional attempt to serve on the jury of a high-profile case," Heard's lawyers wrote.

Heard still has the ability to appeal the verdict to the Virginia Court of Appeals. The issues presented to the appellate court could well be different from the issues Azcarate rejected Wednesday.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Court documents in Polanski criminal case ordered released

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A California appeals court on Wednesday ordered the unsealing of some documents in the criminal case against renowned director Roman Polanski, who has been a fugitive since pleading guilty to having sex with a 13-year-old girl decades ago, a California prosecutor announced. The court ordered the unsealing of the conditional deposition transcript of Roger Gunson, who was the original prosecutor in the Los Angeles County case, the county district attorney's office said. There was no immediate word, however, on when the documents would be made public. A call seeking comment from Polanski's agent in Los Angeles, Jeff Berg, wasn't picked up Wednesday night. But Harland Braun, Polanski's attorney, told the Los Angeles Times that his client was "ecstatic" over the order by the 2nd District Court of Appeal.

Netflix to rely on Microsoft for its ad-backed video service

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Netflix has picked Microsoft to help deliver the commercials in a cheaper version of its video streaming service expected to launch later this year with a pledge to minimize the intrusions into personal privacy that often accompany digital ads. The alliance announced Wednesday marks a major step toward Netflix's first foray into advertising after steadfastly refusing to include commercials in its video streaming service since its inception 15 years ago. Netflix announced it would abandon its resistance to ads three months ago after disclosing it had lost 200,000 subscribers during the first three months of the year amid stiffer competition and rising inflation that has pressured household budgets, causing management to realize the time had come for a less expensive option. Netflix has warned it will likely report even larger subscriber losses for the April-June period, increasing the urgency to roll out a cheaper version of its service backed by ads to help reverse customer erosion. That decline has contributed to a 70% decline in its stock price so far this year, wiped out in about $190 billion in shareholder wealth and triggered hundreds of layoffs. The Los Gatos, California, company is scheduled to release its April-June numbers on July 19, but still hasn't specified when its ad-supported option will be available except it will roll out before 2023. Netflix's announcement about the Microsoft partnership also omitted a crucial piece of information: the anticipated price of the ad-supported option.

Disgraced R&B star R. Kelly back in Chicago for sex trial

CHICAGO (AP)—R. Kelly has been returned to the federal jail in downtown Chicago ahead of his trial on child pornography and obstruction-of-justice charges, just two weeks after the disgraced R&B star was sentenced in New York to 30 years in prison for racketeering and sex trafficking. The 55-year-old Kelly was transferred Tuesday from the federal jail in Brooklyn to the Metropolitan Correctional Center, the Chicago Tribune reported. He was also held at the Chicago lockup after he was indicted on federal charges in Chicago and New York in 2019. Jury selection for his federal trial in Chicago is set to begin Aug. 15. Kelly was convicted in 2021 in New York on charges that he sexually abused young fans, including children, in a systematic scheme that prosecutors alleged went on for decades. He was sentenced in June. Kelly has denied any wrongdoing.

3 charged in scheme to sell stolen 'Hotel California' lyrics

NEW YORK (AP)—A rock memorabilia dealer and two other men were charged Tuesday with scheming to sell allegedly ill-gotten, handwritten lyrics to the classic rock juggernaut "Hotel California" and other hits by the Eagles. Prosecutors said the trio lied to auction houses and buyers about the manuscripts' fuzzy chain of origin, coaching the person who provided the material about what to say. Meanwhile, the men tried to thwart Eagles co-founder Don Henley's efforts to reclaim the items, according to prosecutors. "They made up stories about the origin of the documents and their right to possess them so they could turn a profit," Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said. Through their lawyers, rock auctioneer Edward Kosinski and co-defendants Glenn Horowitz and Craig Inciardi pleaded not guilty to conspiracy charges. Kosinski and Inciardi were also charged with criminal possession of stolen property, and Horowitz was charged with attempted criminal possession of stolen property and two counts of hindering prosecution. They were released without bail. Their lawyers insist the men are innocent.

Family struggles to grow roots amid frequent moves

DEAR ABBY: My husband, my child and I have moved six times over an eight-year period. Some of the moves were within months of each other. All of them were for financial or emotional reasons. The last one took us an hour and a half away from where we had been living for many years. We had formed relationships there, and our child had built friendships. We loved the area and school. We decided to buy a house after renting, but we struggled to find a place in our price range. Instead, we found one back in an old area we liked.

We have been here three months now, and we all regret the move. We miss our old friends, our child misses the old school and we are unhappy in the new house. I think my child and I may have developed depression. Our child's grades have slipped, and they have made no new friends.

We are debating returning to the area we loved so much. Family and friends are giving us grief about all the moves, and I know they'll do it again. We are at a loss as to why we moved away and would like an outside honest opinion. Is it OK to move back to an area we loved and established roots in?

WANDERING IN INDIANA

DEAR WANDERING: You state that finances had a lot to do with your nomadic lifestyle. That's a valid reason for moving. I do not think you should quickly move again. All of the moves you mentioned may be the reason your child is having difficulty establishing friendships, which takes time. The administrators at your child's new school may be able to help if you explain to them what you think is going on.

As to your own depression, if you can afford it, I'm suggesting some sessions with a licensed psychologist or social worker for the time being. If, after that, your family still cannot adjust, return to the community from which you came without making apologies to anyone (and with my blessing).

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I've been married to my husband for 21 years. I learned only a few days ago that he has a 9-year-old daughter from an affair he had. I never knew he'd been unfaithful. I'm disgusted about what he did. Now he wants his daughter to move in with us! I don't hate her, but I'm not crazy about children.

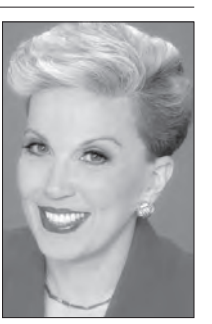
Also, I'm the only one in the household who is employed. He doesn't even try to find a job, and I'm treated like this live-in housekeeper, cleaning up his messes, etc. He refuses to help with housework. If the kid moves in, I'll be cleaning up after two people, plus trying to cope with anxiety and depression due to past trauma.

I can only take so much. He keeps harassing me about having her stay, and he says that if I don't accept her, I don't accept him. I'm ready to ask him to leave, but what should I really do?

FED UP IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR FED UP: After 21 years of carrying the entire load for your freeloader husband, rather than shoulder even more responsibility by taking in this child, what you should really do is consult a lawyer. It's time you started taking care of YOURSELF, because by now it should be apparent that he never will.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

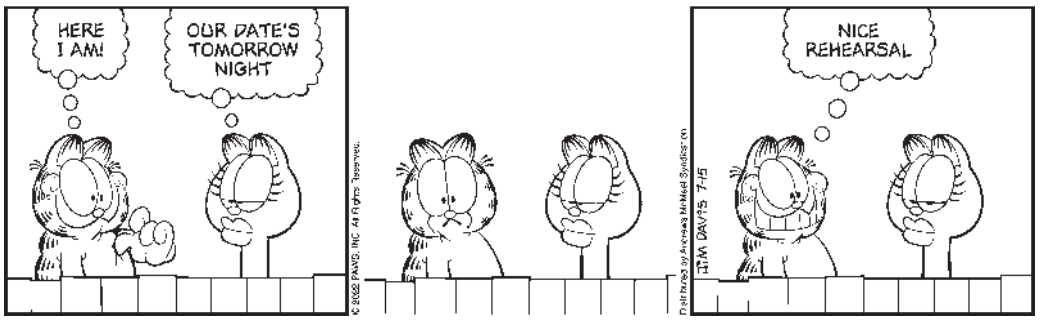
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HOWS YOUR BOOK?
I CANT PUT IT DOWN.
GRIPPING?
YOU SAID IT!
MAYBE YOU SHOULD WASH YOUR HANDS.
ITS PEANUT BUTTER MIXED WITH BUBBLE GUM.

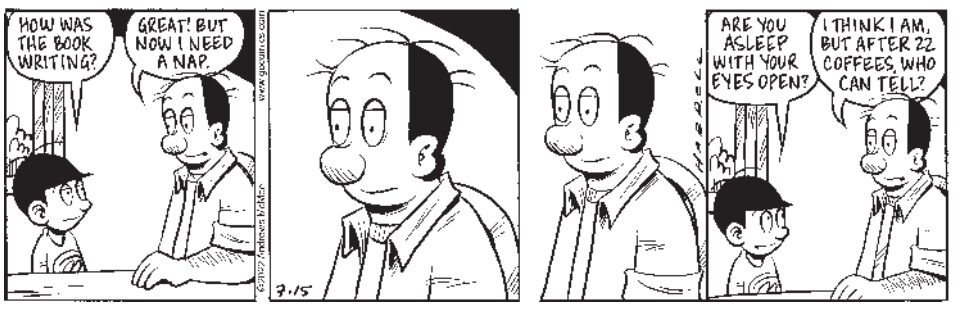
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



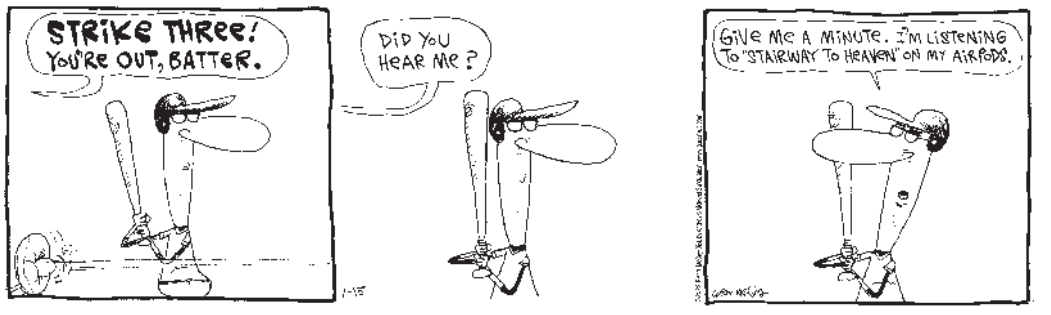
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HOW WAS THE BOOK WRITING?
GREAT! BUT NOW I NEED A NAP.
ARE YOU ASLEEP WITH YOUR EYES OPEN?
I THINK I AM, BUT AFTER 22 COFFEES, WHO CAN TELL?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Apt. coolers
4 Fishing rod
8 Choir voice
12 New Deal agcy.
13 "Zounds!"
14 Chiefs coach Andy
15 Boring types
17 Tear
18 Bad habit
19 Woodland walks
20 Computer problem
22 Swedish auto
24 Spartan queen
25 Dijon products
29 Tokyo's historic name
30 Quick looks
31 Hasten
32 Sends on, as an email
34 Kick back
35 Bee's home
36 Comic Hedberg
37 Suitor
40 Shakespeare villain
41 Reedy
42 Birds of prey
46 Queue
47 Yankee nickname
48 Debtor's letters
49 Makes a choice
50 Emmy winner Alan
51 Record holder?

DOWN
1 Moreover
2 French vineyard
3 Surrealist Dali
4 Fuzzy fruit
5 Shrek, for one
6 Young fellow
7 Sheeran and Harris
8 Mexican shout of joy
9 Onion relative
10 Fork part
11 Probability
16 Kudrow of "Friends"
19 Millinery
20 Staff symbol
21 Decorate anew
22 Soft leather
23 Requests
25 TV mogul Griffin
26 Art of speaking
27 Platter
28 Third son
30 Ache
33 Bellyaches
34 Latvia's capital
36 Tribute maker
37 Normandy battle site
38 Use an egg-beater
39 "— She Sweet"
40 Sport shirt brand
42 Cote cry
43 Internet address
44 Scooby-—
45 Heat source

Solution time: 25 mins.

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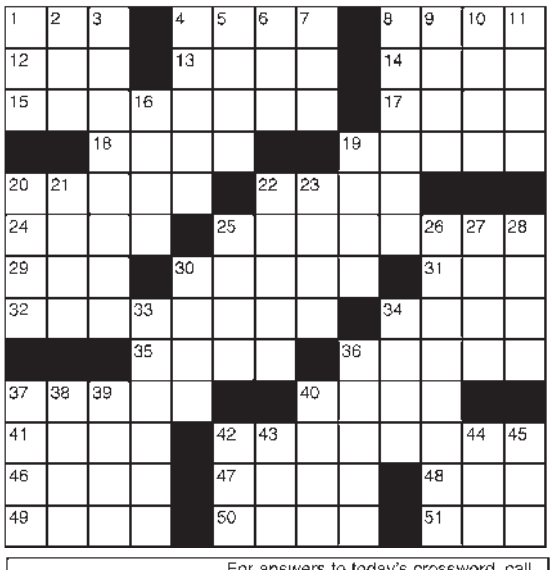
Yesterday's answer 7-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tristan Wilds, 33; Lana Parrilla, 45; Gabriel Iglesias, 46; Forest Whitaker, 61.

Happy Birthday: Question, evaluate, recalculate and carry on until you reach your objective. Knowledge is the key to your success this year. Research, educational pursuits and doing your own thing will build character and offer a look at what's possible. Invest in your future, and build the framework for the life you want to pursue. An innovative idea will improve your status quo. Your numbers are 9, 13, 24, 30, 36, 44, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Embrace a physical challenge that makes you feel good about yourself, what you do and how you look. A dedicated plan will give you something to feel passionate about. Avoid problems with people who can influence your life. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Maintain balance, integrity, and desire. Put your energy into what matters to you most. Take a creative approach to how you handle friends, relatives and peers. Don't take on a losing battle. Use time wisely and ease stress. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* A fast move forward is possible if you are willing to act and give your all. Reward yourself with something that lifts your spirits and makes you feel passionate about your life journey. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Assess your situation and adjust what isn't working for you. Revise your plans to suit the economic climate, then proceed with caution. Take a step back if it will help you gain perspective and save money. Change begins with you. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take it easy, relax and don't start anything you can't finish. Taking responsibility for your happiness will keep you out of trouble. Don't provoke fights or let others railroad you into a battle.✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take a trip, attend an event, try something different or network with people in your industry of choice. Protect your position, ideas and health from anyone who puts you at risk. A change will offer insight into possibilities. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Do something that puts a smile on your face. Testing your strength and challenging yourself will open a window of opportunity that will help you find your voice and put an end to what no longer works for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Refuse to let anyone limit you. State your viewpoint and go about your business. Strive to fulfill your ambitions and put your heart, soul and energy into what matters most to you. Don't give up or give in; get moving. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Do what comes naturally, and move in a direction that supports enthusiasm and your ambitions. Take pride in what you achieve by sharing it with the people you love. Make your home welcoming. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Put lavish preferences aside and focus on a simpler lifestyle. Be thoughtful of others and patient with yourself. Revise what isn't working for you, then engage in events that provoke thought and encourage you to live life your way. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Refuse to let the changes around you cause confusion or uncertainty. Remove yourself from drama and eliminate stress. Focus on what you can do to look and feel your best, and spend more time with someone you love. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Doing something creative or fun will brighten your day. Call on someone who enjoys the same pastimes, and it will double the fun. Changing up things to suit your needs will lower stress and support a positive attitude. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are assertive, disciplined and curious. You are enthusiastic and charming.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4					
		2	3		4	5		1
	9			5			7	
	2						5	
		5		9		6		
	6						4	
	7			4			6	
3		8	2		9	4		
							8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Tuesday's Answer

7	9	2	6	4	8	1	5	3
1	6	3	7	9	5	2	8	4
5	4	8	3	2	1	9	6	7
3	2	7	4	8	9	5	1	6
4	5	6	1	7	2	3	9	8
8	1	9	5	6	3	7	4	2
2	7	1	8	5	6	4	3	9
6	3	4	9	1	7	8	2	5
9	8	5	2	3	4	6	7	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

IT'S A CANARD Solution: 5 letters

N	H	D	E	T	A	L	F	N	I	E	P	U	D	L
N	A	E	E	X	A	L	T	E	D	C	I	T	N	A
C	O	R	A	E	S	W	I	N	D	L	E	O	E	C
H	T	I	R	R	S	H	O	F	S	B	I	F	G	I
A	N	N	T	A	S	I	T	T	F	S	C	T	E	G
T	U	F	A	N	T	A	S	Y	R	U	I	I	L	O
T	O	L	P	C	E	I	Y	E	M	G	L	D	B	L
E	C	L	I	B	E	V	V	D	O	O	O	B	B	L
R	C	F	A	L	S	E	N	E	O	B	R	I	A	I
U	A	L	B	D	L	K	E	I	F	R	F	T	B	M
M	B	A	E	B	N	N	W	P	K	O	A	S	U	A
O	F	K	B	O	Ⓔ	A	S	U	A	L	R	P	Z	G
R	A	I	I	R	Ⓡ	R	C	N	E	T	A	C	Z	I
F	U	S	F	O	Ⓞ	P	S	S	L	Y	C	T	E	N
Q	E	S	S	E	Ⓛ	D	N	U	O	R	G	H	S	E

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Account, Antic, Babble, Blab, Bluff, Bogus, Buzzes, Chatter, Dupe, Exalted, Fable, Faked, False, Fantasy, Fibs, Fiction, Force, Frolic, Groundless, Hearsay, Illogical, Imagine, Inflated, Invention, Leak, Legend, Lore, Myth, Narrative, News, Noise, Parody, Patch, Plot, Prank, Puns, Quibble, Rumor, Scandal, Spoof, Swindle, Talk, Tidbits, Unreal, Version

Yesterday's Answer: Collection

To purchase **Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition,** visit www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Twinbill sweep of Nats extends Mariners' win streak to 10

WASHINGTON (AP)— Jesse Winker hit his second solo homer of the day and the Seattle Mariners won their 10th straight game, edging the Washington Nationals 2-1 on Wednesday night to sweep a doubleheader.

The Mariners have 10 consecutive wins for the first time since April 8-17, 2002. Their only longer winning streak was a 15-game run from May 23-June 8, 2001 — the last year they made the playoffs. Seattle is second in the AL West, well behind Houston but squarely in wild-card contention.

The Mariners won the opener 6-4, getting a three-run homer from Eugenio Suárez and six solid innings from Chris Flexen (6-8), who won his fourth straight start.

Winker also homered in the afternoon game, his first after serving a six-game suspension for his role in a brawl with the Los Angeles Angels on June 26.

Tommy Milone (1-1) pitched 3 1/3 scoreless innings of relief to win the nightcap.

All-Star Juan Soto extended his hitting streak to 15 games when he hit his second ninth-inning homer of the day, a solo blast into the upper deck in right off Paul Sewald, who escaped further trouble for his second save of the day and 12th this year.

The Nationals have lost six straight and 12 of 13 and fell to 30-60, the worst record in the majors.

Washington starter Erick Fedde (5-7) allowed two runs on six hits over 5 1/3 innings in the nightcap. Josiah Gray (7-6) allowed five runs in five innings in the opener.

Orioles 7, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Anthony Santander hit a two-run double to spark a three-run first inning, Spenser Watkins and four relievers scattered six hits Baltimore won its 10th straight game.

It's the Orioles' longest winning streak in a single season since they won 13 in a row from Sept. 7-22, 1999. Baltimore (45-44) went over the .500 mark for the first time since April 8, 2021.

Angels 7, Astros 1

In Anaheim, Calif., Shohei Ohtani won his sixth straight start by striking out 12 in six innings and also hit a two-run triple in the Los Angeles' victory over Houston.

The two-way Japanese phenom improved to 9-4 and became the fifth pitcher to have at least 50 strikeouts and allow one or fewer earned runs over a five-game span since earned runs became an official statistic in 1913. The others were Chris Sale (2018), Clayton Kershaw (2014-15), R.A. Dickey (2012) and Randy Johnson (1997).

Twins 4, Brewers 1

In Minneapolis, Minnesota's Jose Miranda hit a game-ending, three-run homer against Milwaukee's Josh Hader.

Miranda's third hit of the game traveled to the second deck in left field. The Twins have five walk-off wins this season.

Hader (0-3) walked Jorge Polanco and allowed a single to Max Kepler before Miranda's drive.

Blue Jays 8, Phillies 2

In Toronto, Teoscar Hernández hit a pair of two-run home runs, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. also connected and Toronto won its first game after firing manager Charlie Montoyo.

Toronto swept a two-game series against Philadelphia, taking the finale under the charge of interim manager John Schneider, who will skipper the team the rest of the season.

Mets 7, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Francisco Lindor hit a three-run homer, Chris Bassitt threw six strong innings and New York beat Atlanta.

The NL East-leading Mets won two of three in the series and lead the second-place Braves by 2 1/2 games.

Eduardo Escobar and Mark Canha also homered for the Mets.

Eddie Rosario had three hits, including one of Atlanta's three homers.

Yankees 7, Reds 6, 10 innings

In New York, DJ LeMahieu capped his 34th birthday by sliding across the plate on Alexis Díaz's second straight wild pitch in the 10th inning, and New York rallied from a four-run deficit to beat Cincinnati and stop a three-game skid.

Michael King (6-1), the seventh Yankees pitcher, escaped first-and-third, no-outs trouble in the 10th when Matt Reynolds struck out and Kyle Farmer grounded into a 5-4-3 double play.

Dodgers 7, Cardinals 6

In St. Louis, Hanser Alberto hit a tiebreaking single with two outs in the ninth inning and Los Angeles climbed out of a huge hole to beat St. Louis.

Los Angeles, which has won eight of nine, charged back from a 6-0 deficit with seven runs over the final three innings. The rally took unbeaten All-Star Tony Gonsolin off the hook for his first loss of the season after an ineffective start.

Mookie Betts had an RBI double in the eighth and Trea Turner's two-run single cut it to 6-5. Max Muncy tied it in the ninth with a sacrifice fly.

Giants 4, Diamondbacks 3

In San Francisco, Brandon Crawford hit a game-ending RBI single to complete San Francisco's rally from an early 3-0 deficit.

Wilmer Flores tied the game in the eighth with a pinch-hit homer. Brandon Belt started the rally with a solo homer in the seventh as the Giants took two of three from Arizona and won their first series since June 17-19 at Pittsburgh.

Rays 4, Red Sox 1

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Shane McClanahan earned his 10th win and regained the major league lead in strikeouts during his final outing before the All-Star Game as Tampa Bay beat Boston.

Taylor Walls homered for the Rays, who have won five straight against the rival Red Sox.

White Sox 2, Guardians 1

In Cleveland, Lucas Giolito pitched one-run ball into the seventh inning and Chicago beat Cleveland.

Giolito (6-5) yielded an unearned run in 6 1/3 innings. The right-hander is 5-1 with a 0.83 ERA in 10 starts against Cleveland since May 17, 2019.

Rangers 5, Athletics 2

In Arlington, Texas, Jon Gray allowed only a fourth-inning infield single in seven shutout innings and Texas beat Oakland.

Gray (6-4) struck out nine and walked none, winning for the fifth time in his last six starts.

Leody Taveras and Brad Miller hit two-run singles during a five-run first inning against Paul Blackburn (6-5). Corey Seager also had an RBI single for the Rangers but failed to homer, ending his streak of five consecutive games with a longball.

Marlins 5, Pirates 4, 10 innings

In Miami, Jesús Aguilar hit a tying single and scored the winning run on a wild pitch as Miami rallied for three runs in the 10th inning to beat Pittsburgh.

Jon Berti hit an RBI single that trimmed Miami's deficit to 4-3. Aguilar followed with a one-out RBI single to center field against All-Star closer David Bednar (3-3).

Rockies 10, Padres 6

In Denver, José Iglesias drove in a career-high six runs with a homer and two singles, and Colorado beat San Diego.

The Rockies have won 12 of their last 13 against the Padres at Coors Field.

Sam Hilliard had three hits and scored three runs and Robert Stephenson (1-1) got the win with an inning of relief for the Rockies, who saw manager Bud Black ejected in the sixth inning.

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TSL Foundation sponsors intn'l fishing derby

The Tan Sui Lin Foundation is supporting the 38th Saipan International Fishing Tournament that will be held this Saturday.

The TSL Foundation has donated $2,250 to tournament organizer Saipan Fishermen's Association for prizes for the mahi category of the annual competition.

TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino turned over the donation to SFA officials led by vice president Scott Shular during a brief ceremony last Tuesday at the conference room of Tan Holdings in Beach Road.

"The Tan Sui Lin Foundation and Tan Holdings have consistently supported SFA and our tournaments for years and their assistance has allowed us to host multiple events for our fishermen. We are grateful to have them on board again for the 38th Saipan International Fishing Tournament and look forward to their continued support," Shular said.

Shular added that they are expecting to have more than 40 boats for this weekend's competition, including those coming from Guam. Besides the mahi category, the 38th Saipan International Fishing Tournament will also award prizes to the Top 3 in the yellow fin, wahoo, and skipjack divisions. The highlight of the competition is the billfish category, while organizers will also pick a winner in the total weight class.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, center, presents the ceremonial check donation to Saipan Fishermen's Association officers during a turnover ceremony last Tuesday in Garapan.

Da'Net's 358-lb marlin won the bill fish category last year, while *Villia Marie*'s 305-lb catch took the top honors in the total weight. In the mahi category, *Regulator*'s 24.7-lb catch topped the event, while other category first place winners were *Santa Soledad* (9.4-lb skipjack), J&MJ (32.2-lb wahoo), and *Celilio and Capono* (67-lb wahoo).

"We congratulate SFA for putting together this event for our fishermen and we wish all boat captains and anglers a safe and bountiful day on the waters this Saturday," Tolentino said. ***(PR)***

CFoGA: Goal is to revive junior program once again

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

With the impressive gold medal win by 15-year-old Zhimin Jin in the women's golf competition and with the great performance of each NMI junior golfer during the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, the Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations said its future goals is to restart the junior golf program in the CNMI.

They said with the exposure of golf to the CNMI youth during the Games, they hope it will spark an interest in them to pick up the sport.

And with that, the CFoGA is "going to try to put together a junior golf program… whether it be an independent program, or one hosted by the federation that will truly support the junior golf program," said CFoGA president Edward Manibusan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI national golfer Joshua Atalig tees off in the No. 1 hole at Coral Ocean Resort during the golf competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

"We had a junior program [a] long time ago but that kind of died down because we just didn't have the instructors to do the program," he added.

J.J. Atalig, NMI national golfer and vice president of the CFoGA, shared Manibusan's sentiments and said that they hope junior golfers get to participate elsewhere, be it in another Mini Games or in the Pacific Games. "From now looking forward, [it's] more building on the kids so they can be part of the game. Not saying we're getting old, but we would want them to continue the legacy."

"We want to grow the sport of golf, especially the aim is really to improve the junior golfers in the Pacific," chimed in Geri Dela Cruz, member of the CFoGA.

For the program, not only will they invite children that are interested to join the program, they will be needing the support from businesses and golf courses where they can run the program.

The federation said they will be convening soon to discuss the subject and information on it will be provided as it comes.

The list of accomplishments and experience of junior golfers continue to grow as Jin was adjudged the Best Junior Female athlete of the Games. She began playing golf at the mere age of 7 years old; and Joshua Atalig, 15, who played alongside his father, J.J. Atalig, in the Games, was invited to take part in two tournaments by the American Junior Golf Association this month.

SAIPAN

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Team member.

As an added bonus, his gold medal in the 286-lb division earned him a slot in the U.S. team that will compete in the 2022 UWW World Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria, from Aug. 15 to 21.

"It feels great to finally be a part of the world team, especially after last year finishing so close when I got second at the trials. it just feels amazing showing that all the hours I have put in are starting to pay off."

Like he did before the U20 Pan-American Championships, Attao expects himself again to be a fixture on the wrestling mat.

"Preparation for Worlds is going to be the same as before. Everything is going to go through my coaches and I am going to trust in their training plan and just keep working and getting prepared for Worlds," said Attao, who last visited the CNMI in 2011 when he was 6 years old.

A report from KTVB7 said Attao earned the 130-kg spot on the 2022 U20 Greco-Roman World Team after back-to-back first-period pins at trials in Geneva, Ohio, last June 3.

He is next slated to see action in the 2022 USA Wrestling Junior and 16U National Championships starting this Saturday, July 16, at the FargoDome.

RUN

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as the U.S. Army and Gold's Gym Saipan trainer has prior commitments and he can't be subbed out.

"It's non-transferrable. I think the Mexico team only has one person that's able to make it the last time I checked the roster. I'm really sad Gerald won't be able to join us. This goes to show when I make a relay team people shouldn't hesitate to join it. This team could've been a very different team if other people responded quicker and said 'yes' to joining," said Dela Cruz.

Sapong, meanwhile, will be competing in her third World Athletics Championships following stints in London in 2017 and Doha in 2019.

Her coach, Northern Marianas Athletics developmental coach Elias Rangamar, said their goal is to have the 2021 NMSA Female Athlete of the Year improve her times in the glamor event of the World Champs.

"Zari hopes to get a personal best and break the elusive 13-second 100m that she wanted to break before the pandemic happened. She came very close during the Mini Games," he said while transiting in Guam.

TRAC

From Page 24

win gold and silver. Almost all the medals were taken by these two countries. Their level of competition is way beyond the other Pacific Islander nations with the exception of Guam's Manami Ijima," added the veteran runner, swimmer, cyclist, and triathlete.

As far as the best CNMI triathlete in the Games, Sitchon said hands down Brook was the national triathlon team member that really stood out.

"Heather Brook is the best performer by anchoring Team NMI in winning the bronze. She had the best result among our national team members. Although all members really tried their best."

The TRAC official also extended his thanks to the island of Rota for playing perfect hosts to the triathlon competition of the Games.

"The Rota Mayor's Office was a big help with the support of its community. Led by Mayor Efraim Atalig through his assistants Ike Mendiola, Aubrey Hocog, DFEMS' Steve Mesngon and MVA Rota's David Atalig. All athletes and officials enjoyed the people of Rota's hospitality especially during the awards night."

Sitchon also said the triathlon event on Rota wouldn't have a positive outcome without the invaluable help extended by the Mini Games Organizing Committee led by chair Marco Peter and CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta.

Also making up the CNMI National Triathlon Team for the Games were Robyn Spaeth, Christian Villacrusis, and alternate Dylan Mister. Jay Diyco served as manager with Mick Ferris as coach.

1-day international fishing tourney tomorrow

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Two years ago, the Saipan Fishermen's Association reduced its premier derby to a one-day affair due to COVID-19 restrictions.

This year, they've shortened the 38th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament anew to a 13-hour competition but this time due to rising gas prices.

"Gas prices were the sole driver for cutting it to one day. [This format] reduces fuel expenses by half," said SFA president Tony Scragg.

The SFA president said he's hoping that 60 boats will take part in this year's edition of the Saipan International Fishing Tournament, which will launch at Smiling Cove Marina bright and early tomorrow starting at 5:30am with boats required to check back in at 6:30pm.

The main sponsors of the 38th Saipan International Fishing Tournament are MarPac (for the heaviest marlin), Paradise Dental Spa (for the heaviest yellowfin), Docomo Pacific for the heaviest wahoo), TSL Foundation (for the heaviest mahi), Steven Brownstein (for the heaviest skipjack), and Mobil Oil Marianas (for the total weight).

In addition, Scragg said record-breaking special prizes have been offered by Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., Century Insurance, TSL Foundation, and Marpac/Budweiser (for marlins that weigh in excess of 500 kg).

The awards banquet for the 38th Saipan International Fishing Tournament is this Sunday, beginning at 6pm at Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Magellan

Last year, captain John Hattig Sr. and his godson, Frank Benavente, of Guam aboard the *Da'Net* won the the grand prize of the 37th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament

When it rained it poured for Hattig and Benavente as aside from pocketing the $3,000 grand prize for the 358-lb marlin, they also won the $5,300 side bet for the biggest fish caught during the tournament made among participating fishermen.

For more information about the 38th Saipan International Fishing Tournament, call Martin Duenas at the Marianas Visitors Authority at (670) 664-3200. Application forms can be picked at the MVA office in Oleai or the Fishing Tackle in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Paradise Dental Spa is one of the main sponsors of this Saturday's 8th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Triple J Motors is one of the sponsors of this Saturday's 8th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. is one of the main sponsors of this Saturday's 8th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

'Sets for Pets' v-ball tourney this weekend

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

The 2nd Annual "Sets for Pets" Beach Volleyball Tournament will be held this weekend at the Crowne Plaza sand courts.

SETS FOR PETS

The co-ed 4 vs. 4 beach volleyball competition will serve as a fundraiser that will benefit Saipan Cares for Animals and Boonie Babies Foster.

Along with the volleyball event, puppies will be present and ready for adoption to anyone interested.

The event will have one open division and individuals 15 and older are welcome to participate.

It will be held at the Crowne Plaza sand courts on Saturday, July 16, starting at 8am. All participants must pay a fee of $10 to join. Registration ends on Friday, July 15.

It is "a fun event for the community to help raise awareness and funds for a cause… We're looking to have as many participants as possible. The more the merrier. We want this event to be something everyone in the community can come out and enjoy as well as support animal rescue, adoption, and welfare efforts on-island. It's a great opportunity to have fun, learn more about Boonie Babies, and make a difference. There will be about 20 dogs and puppies total up for adoption," said Boonie Babies to *Saipan Tribune.*

In the first "Sets for Pets" beach volleyball tourney last year, Da Misters topped the tourney against 14 other teams.

According to Boonie Babies Saipan co-founder Grace Keilbach, the fundraiser raised over $2,000 last year for the Saipan Cares for Animals to spread awareness about stray dogs on Saipan.

For more information about the event, contact Boonie Babies on Instagram or Facebook.

Docomo Pacific sponsors intn'l fishing tourney

Docomo Pacific, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, sponsors the 38th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament, the largest international fishing derby in the Marianas.

The Saipan Fishermen's Association is proudly hosting the 38th annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament. This event takes place on Saturday, July 16, 2022 and is an opportunity to showcase local fishermen and thank them for their community contributions.

"For over a decade, DOCOMO PACIFIC has supported the Saipan International Fishing tournament. The SFA continues to provide this cultural platform for fishing traditions and skills to be passed down from generation to generation. We are proud to be a part of this journey and their legacy, together," said Docomo Pacific CNMI brand manager Brent Deleon Guerrero.

As a returning sponsor of the tournament, Docomo Pacific is happy to provide its resources once again to further allow our local people to demonstrate their skill set. Through its sponsorship, Docomo Pacific will be providing a monetary donation and T-shirts for each participating fisherman. The company remains committed to the CNMI people and community and looks forward to the continued growth of the highly anticipated tournament in the years to come.

Docomo Pacific is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT Docomo, Japan's leading mobile operator. Headquartered in Tamuning, Guam, Docomo Pacific is the largest provider of personal, residential, enterprise connectivity, and entertainment services in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. The company is the six-time winner of Best of The Pacific. Docomo Pacific is dedicated to bringing you and your family closer to the things that matter most. Get to know more about what makes us "Better Together" at www.docomopacific.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Docomo Pacific general manager Pauline Johnson, Saipan Fishermen's Association secretary Mira Schular, SFA vice president Schott Schular, SFA solicitation chair Curtis Dancoe, SFA president Tony Scragg, SFA social media coordinator Floyd Masga, and Docomo Pacific CNMI brand manager Brent Deleon Guerrero.

Twinbill sweep of Nats extends Mariners' win streak to 10

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Saipan son wins gold in Pan-Ams

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aiden Attao, the 17-year-old grandson of Jesus and Ramona Attao of Saipan, won the gold medal in the Greco Roman 130-kilogram division of the recent U20 Pan-American Championships in Oaxtepec, Mexico.

Attao, who resides in Boise, Idaho with his parents Jesse Attao and Stacey Hammar, won via forfeit against Brazil's Andre Do Amaral Viana in his opening match before beating Mexico's Luis de la Rosa Arteaga in the finals via a 9-0 technical superiority score.

"Honestly, this gold medal wasn't only for me. It was for my family, coaches, and my country," he told *Saipan Tribune* when asked to whom he's dedicating the gold medal to.

Attao said he went through his usual training regimen to prepare for the U20 Pan-American Championships.

"For the most part my training has been about the same. I have had more training camps at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, but training for the most part has stayed the same throughout the whole year and my training runs through my coaches," said the Borah High School senior and USA Junior National

See SAIPAN on Page 22

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Aiden Attao in action against Mexico's Luis de la Rosa Arteaga in the U20 Pan-American Championships in Oaxtepec, Mexico.

Run Saipan excited for trip to Eugene, Oregon

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

While Zarinae Sapong gets to line up against the best sprinters in the world in the 100m dash, Team NMI Run Saipan gets to play tourists during the 2022 World Athletics Championships set from July 15 to 24 in Eugene, Oregon.

Led by Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., Team NMI Run Saipan literally got the luck of the draw when they were selected to represent the Oceania region in WCH Oregon22.

The rest of the team is made up of Run Saipan vice president Jenna Kong and club regulars Simon Necesito, Jalen Lucido, Sildrey Veloria, and Gerald Galang.

"I don't have any expectations. I'm still in disbelief that we get to go out and experience something like this as tourists. Officially we are going over as 'Asics World Ekiden Ambassadors' along with a team from Indonesia, Mexico, Japan, and Italy. The surprise part of the trip is the Uplift Oregon 5K. It's the first ever mass participation race to go hand in hand at the same time as the marathon competition," said Dela Cruz.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting staff said the marathon course is designed to do two loops. Then in the last 5K from the finish line, Team NMI Run Saipan and the other four teams will be let loose to race their hearts out.

"I'm very excited for Sildrey since it'll be his first off-island race especially on the biggest stage which is the World Championship. They are using this as the test for the Paris marathon which will take place at the same time as the Olympic marathon. I'm very ecstatic Run Saipan gets to be part of world athletics history as the first participants in a mass race during the World Championship stage," he said.

Dela Cruz admitted though that one downer is Team Run Saipan will be missing Galang

See RUN on Page 22

Dela Cruz

TRAC happy with triathletes' performance

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With their recent stint in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, local triathletes will be more motivated to train.

This according to Triathlon Association of the CNMI president Manny Sitchon, who added that winning the bronze in the aquathlon was a nice little bonus.

"With the experience and momentum gained by our CNMI triathletes during the event, they will now be more motivated and train harder for future local and off-island events."

Sitchon said with Isaiah Aleksenko, Leo Wania, Kathy Ruszala, and Heather Brook taking the bronze in the run-swim-run event, at least Team CNMI wasn't shut out in the triathlon competition and it contributed to the CNMI delegation medaling in all nine sports of the Games.

"We are happy with the result after the NMI won the bronze medal in the team aquathlon event. It's already a given that Tahiti and New Caledonia will

See TRAC on Page 22

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Triathletes that competed in the triathlon competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 pose for a group photo at the start/finish line of the course on Rota.